

Winter 2019

CC: Connecticut College Magazine, Winter 2019

Connecticut College

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CC

CONNECTICUT COLLEGE

Magazine



Lost In My Life





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On the cover: *Vogue (Balenciaga)* by Rachel Perry '84 (See page 26)
© Rachel Perry Courtesy of the artist and Yancey Richardson Gallery

This page: Editor Brian Newell '05 and his new film *Into the Okavango*, courtesy of National Geographic (See page 32)



Harold Shapiro

From the President

When Patricia McGowan Wald '48 graduated from Connecticut College, it was clear she was destined for greatness. But no one could have predicted just how wide, deep, and lasting her legacy would be as a legal thinker and advocate for justice around the world.

Wald, who died Jan. 12 at the age of 90, spent her extraordinary career as a lawyer and judge dismantling barriers that most women of her time rarely crossed.

She graduated from Yale Law School in 1951, in a class with only 11 other women, and became the first woman in the country to serve as chief judge of the federal court of appeals in Washington, D.C.—a circuit whose influence is second only to the U.S. Supreme Court.

A champion of the Constitution, Judge Wald retired from the federal bench in 1991, and joined efforts to form new systems of justice in Eastern Europe following the collapse of the Soviet Union. Later, she served for two years on the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, where she presided over landmark cases involving genocide and other war crimes.

The impact of her life's work was recognized in 2013 when President Barack Obama presented her with the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the nation's highest honor awarded to civilians.

Judge Wald stands as a shining example of the values we have always strived to instill in our students, and, as you'll read in the following pages, a new generation of alumni and faculty is living up to this example.

Filmmaker Brian Newell '05 has used his art to safeguard this world's most precious resources as editor and writer on National Geographic's *Into the Okavango*, a documentary that examines the environmental degradation of an ecosystem spanning Angola, Namibia, and Botswana. Nate Heller '98 is changing how underserved populations in West Africa power their homes with an innovative pay-as-you-go model for home solar kits. And Associate Professor of Mathematics Christopher Hammond is transforming lives not just in his CC classroom but also in a local women's prison.

This issue of *CC Magazine* highlights the importance of Judge Wald's legacy through the work that these and other members of the Conn community are doing on campus, in their communities, and around the world.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We welcome your letters. The magazine publishes only letters that comment on the most recent issue's editorial content. Letters may be edited. Please include your return address, an email address (if you have one) and a daytime telephone number for verification purposes.

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"Desperate Cargo" by Mohamad Hafez

Desperate Cargo

Photographed above is "Desperate Cargo," a piece by Mohamad Hafez, who gave a public lecture as part of the exhibition "Intersections: A Benefit Exhibition for the Immigration Advocacy and Support Center." The IASC is a New London nonprofit.

The exhibition, held at Conn's Cummings Arts Center Galleries, also displayed the work of Corina S. Alvarezdelugo, Rafael Colón, Guido Garaycochea, Tedman David Martínez Onofre, Nadine Renazile and Pierre Sylvain all of whom, like Hafez, emigrated to the U.S., sharing the experience of a new country while remaining connected to their countries of origin.

The artists were inspired by varied topics—from spiritual traditions to the war in Syria to gentrification, and their work reflected common themes such as bridging cultures and negotiating the joys, struggles and sorrows created by gaps between communities past and present, near and far.

For this exhibition, artists agreed to offer their work for sale with half of all proceeds donated to the IASC, which supports immigrants by providing low cost, high quality legal services. IASC also works in the community more broadly to advocate for and educate about immigration policy. As part of this ongoing education and advocacy, IASC maintains a partnership with

Connecticut College; each semester, several students intern with IASC.

Alongside and in support of this exhibition, Miles Ladin '90, Juan Flores '16 and Melissa Luen '17 presented selections of their work, all dealing with immigrant and migrant narratives and multicultural identities in the U.S.

The exhibition was grounded in a commitment to foster inclusive art experiences and a desire to bring timely issues and diverse audiences together on campus. It was a collaborative effort—among and between Art Department faculty, artists, immigration advocates and various Connecticut College entities and alumni. The show was curated by Chris Barnard, assistant professor of art.

Footballers

Sophomore goalkeeper A.J. Marcucci of Conn's men's soccer team was named the top NCAA Division III goalkeeper in the nation by being the only player at his position to earn a spot on the United Soccer Coaches All-America First Team. Marcucci, who was also named the 2018 NESCAC Player of the Year, led the nation with a 0.928 save percentage and ranked second with a 0.28 goals against average. He also registered 11 shutouts this past season, bringing his career total to 17. Marcucci is the

12th All-America selection in program history and the first Camel men's soccer standout to make the First Team since 1993. Under the guidance of Kenny Murphy, who was named the NESCAC Coach of the Year, the Camels set a school record for wins (13-3-2) in a season and also hosted and won an NCAA postseason match for the first time.

Conn's Sara Kogelmann '20 was named to the Google Cloud Academic All-America Division III Women's Soccer Team. The junior defender

and economics major was chosen to the Third Team. Kogelmann is the first women's soccer player in program history to earn this Academic All-America recognition. Kogelmann helped anchor a Camel back line that shutout five opponents and yielded one goal or less 10 times in 15 matches. The team finished the season with a 7-6-2 overall record. On campus, Kogelmann is a member of the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Club and Green Dot. She also tutors fellow students in economics.

Foreign Service

Aspiring diplomat Brandy Darling '19 has been selected as a 2019 Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Graduate Fellow.

One of the U.S. Department of State's most competitive and prestigious programs, the Pickering Fellowship provides two years of financial support for graduate study as well as professional development and mentoring to prepare fellows for a career in the U.S. Foreign Service. Fellows also complete an internship at the State Department in Washington, D.C., and an internship at a U.S. embassy abroad.

Funded by the State Department and administered by Howard University, the Pickering Fellowship is awarded to applicants who have displayed outstanding academic achievement and leadership skills. Based on the principle that diversity is a strength in diplomatic efforts, the program values varied backgrounds, including ethnic, racial, social and geographic diversity. Upon successful completion of the program, Pickering Fellows have the opportunity to work as a foreign service officer, serving either in D.C. or at a U.S. embassy, consulate or diplomatic mission around the globe.

Darling is an economics and East Asian studies double major and Posse

Scholar from Chicago, Illinois. A scholar in the Toor Cummings Center for International Studies and the Liberal Arts, she has a particular interest in China. As a first-year student, she joined the East Asian Studies Student Advisory Board and worked as a tutor for a local Chinese-speaking elementary school student. She also presented in Mandarin at the annual World Languages Conference at New London's Regional Multicultural Magnet School.

In 2016, Darling was awarded a prestigious Critical Language Scholarship, which the State Department awards to outstanding students who are pursuing fluency in an essential world language by studying abroad. The scholarship allowed Darling to spend the summer in Dalian, China, immersing herself in Mandarin at the Dalian University of Technology. As a junior, she studied abroad in Harbin, China, and completed an internship with the African Chamber of Commerce in China. She is currently working on a research project examining the macroeconomic effects on China's economy from an influx of scholarships given to African students to study at Chinese universities.

"Brandy is an exceptionally talented young woman, scholar and leader.

Over the course her undergraduate studies both on and off campus, she has developed tremendous intercultural skills and a global mindset in the best sense," said Amy Dooling, associate dean of global initiatives, director of the Walter Commons for Global Study and Engagement and professor of Chinese, who also serves as Darling's Posse mentor.

"I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with her over the past three and a half years and to witness her progress and the incredible ways in which her college journey has unfolded. She is eminently deserving of the Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship, which will enable her to pursue her lifelong goal of joining the U.S. Foreign Service."

With the Pickering Fellowship, Darling hopes to attend the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey to study French and international trade and economic diplomacy and continue to research Sino-African relations from the French West African perspective.

"I've wanted to be a diplomat for so long and this fellowship is the biggest step toward that goal," she said.

Darling says her ultimate goal is to be the U.S. Ambassador to China.

Dancing Fellow

Dance Professor David Dorfman '81 never stops moving.

He has taught dance for 40 consecutive years and served as the artistic director of the influential modern dance company David Dorfman Dance since 1987, performing extensively throughout North and South America, Europe and Central Asia. In 2017, he made his Broadway debut as the choreographer of *Indecent*, by Paula Vogel, and this past summer he and his company partnered with USAID El Salvador to bring dance to youth in an area plagued by gang violence. He's won four fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, three New York Foundation for the Arts fellowships, a Guggenheim fellowship, an American Choreographers Award, a Lucille Lortel Award for best choreography, the first

Paul Taylor Fellowship from The Yard, and a New York Dance & Performance Award ("Bessie").

Now, he can add 2019 United States Artists Fellow to his impressive résumé.

The fellowship, for which winners must be nominated by peers or experts in their field, recognizes the accomplishments of artists with a \$50,000 award to spend however they choose.

"I could barely speak when they called me to tell me I got the fellowship—I was so happy I started crying on the phone," Dorfman said. "It feels really good to get this vote of confidence not only from the organization, but from my peers as well."

Dorfman, who will be honored by United States Artists along with other fellows in March, says he can imagine using the award in a number of different ways, from creating new work to exploring

new artistic avenues to writing a book.

"I have been thinking: Is this the opportunity to do something really unusual? Could this be seed money to start a different kind of collaboration? I love the idea that with this fellowship, I have the opportunity to get up in the morning and dream in any way, shape or form," he said.

At the same time, the fast-talking and highly energetic professor, dancer, choreographer and mentor is hoping to challenge himself to do something else entirely unusual—rest.

"I'm pretty good at charging ahead. Many times, I don't give myself the downtime, the uptime, the sideways time," he said.

"This will be a lovely period where I can exalt in the fact that some people have some ongoing faith in what I do."

Runaway Train

How does it feel to have post-traumatic stress disorder? Like getting hit by a train, according to Anna Westbrook '16.

"After I was diagnosed, I felt the need to explain what it was like to have an episode," she said.

"I began toying with this analogy of a train full of people who ran away; once you got hit by this train, you were stuck in this world full of people who were running."

That was the inspiration behind *Isabel* & the Runaway Train, a contemporary jazz/folk musical Westbrook spent years writing and perfecting before its full production premiere in Austin, Texas, this past July. The play is designed to help viewers—referred to as "passengers"—discuss the challenging topics of mental health and sexual maltreatment. It tells the story of 16-year-old Isabel, who runs away and finds herself trapped on a magical train. Eventually, she is reunited with her parents, who learn how to help her begin healing from past trauma.

Westbrook, who grew up in New London and studied education at

Southern Connecticut State University, came to Conn as a nontraditional student in 2013 to study music for the express purpose of writing the musical.

"Conn was the perfect place to workshop it," said Westbrook, who worked with music and theater faculty to finish the script and score. "The art departments are so holistic, and the staff and faculty understand emotional wellness."

In 2015, when Westbrook was a senior, the student theater group Wig and Candle produced the first staged reading of *Isabel*.

"After the show, there were people who chose to get help—that's when I realized this is something that could help people and could make change," Westbrook said.

After graduation, Westbrook moved to Austin, Texas, and began networking with nonprofit groups to bring *Isabel* to life. That dream became a reality this summer when the musical's premiere was attended by more than 300 people.

The feedback was overwhelmingly

positive. And while Westbrook expected the show to resonate with women, she was pleasantly surprised by the reaction from older men.

"The father in the show helps his daughter by doing some very specific, manageable things, which men felt gave them something to do," she said. "Their wives kept calling me and thanking me. One woman said, 'My husband finally understands the #MeToo movement.'"

Now, Westbrook and the *Isabel* team have developed a series of workshop-style training seminars to help business teams, organizations and community leaders respond to and discuss mental health, trauma and sexual maltreatment. They plan to take the training program and the musical on the road.

"I prepare people emotionally for the moment when someone says, 'Something happened to me,'" Westbrook said.

"If we do a better job of comforting survivors, they will be better equipped to get into roles of power. And if we empower survivors, we can make systematic change."

Woman to Watch

The magazine *Town & Country* recently featured Cecile Dominguez-Yujuico '04 for her work as CEO of Evident Communications, an integrated marketing and public relations agency, which led Dominguez-Yujuico to be honored as one of Campaign Asia's Women to Watch for 2018.

In five years, Evident Communications has grown from a group of three to a team of 22 individuals. The company has four

focus areas: digital marketing, public relations, advocacy and data and insights.

Dominguez-Yujuico, who grew up in Mindanao, Philippines, was also recently named by the retail brand Uniqlo as one of its 10 game-changing Future Heroes.

The magazine wrote that Evident Communications has an "unusual focus on social impact. While many traditional agencies will collaborate with Non-Government Offices for Corporate Social Re-

sponsibility work, [Dominguez-Yujuico] has built a separate business unit founded on Evident's NGO work. Not bad for the 'agency outsider' that she is."

"I came into communications from a very grassroots experience," she told the magazine. "It wasn't about selling products or communicating for a brand but about building relationships with key stakeholders on behalf of a company and managing community relations."





30 Under 30

Ipek Bakir '12, James Finucane '13 and Daniel Shoukimas '13 have been named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for 2019, marking the second consecutive year three Conn alumni have been recognized among the world's brightest young entrepreneurs, leaders and influencers.

Bakir is considered a rising star of the education-focused Overdeck Family Foundation. She is a founding member of a major nonprofit that screens edtech products. At the Foundation, Bakir guides investments in student-centered school models, high-quality professional learning programs, and school capacity for monitoring and collecting data. Her Innovative School portfolio has helped award over \$5 million in grants reaching more than 200 schools and 75,000 students.

"My work at the Foundation focuses on ensuring every child has access to an

education that meets both academic and socio-emotional needs," Bakir said.

Finucane and Shoukimas are two of three co-founders of mPharma, a healthcare startup that manages pharmaceutical inventory on behalf of mom-and-pop pharmacies across Africa. Headquartered in Ghana, mPharma serves close to 30,000 patients each month across a network of more than 150 pharmacies and has \$12 million in funding.

"I am grateful that mPharma is being recognized for the achievements that my colleagues have all worked very hard to realize," Finucane said.

Shoukimas added, "We at mPharma are all quite honored to be recognized on the Forbes list, in that it's a reflection of the efforts of each of us to make medicine more accessible and affordable in the developing world. We're hoping the added

visibility will help us to continue pulling Africa's best talent into our ranks."

The trio joins a growing number of Conn alums who have appeared on the 30 Under 30 list. Jazmine Hughes '12, Aditi Juneja '12 and Emily Callahan '11 were named to Forbes 30 Under 30 for 2018. The three Conn alumni were featured in the media, law and policy, and energy industries.

Molly Hayward '10 was recognized in 2017 for founding the innovative startup company Cora, and Lauren Burke '06 made the list in 2013 in the law and policy category for her work as an advocate for immigrant youth and victims of child trafficking.

Each year, Forbes selects its 30 Under 30 winners from more than 10,000 nominees in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Waiting Is the Hardest Part

A few years ago, Egil Dennerline '97 wasn't sure if he'd ever speak again, much less sing.

A creative force with four studio albums, several books of poetry and some film credits under his belt, Dennerline was diagnosed in 2011 with tongue cancer, and the prognosis doctors gave him was mixed.

Since childhood, Dennerline knew he was at risk. He has a rare genetic disorder called Fanconi anemia (FA), which is known to cause different types of cancers. Still, the shock was profound and motivated him to focus even more intensely on creating music. After enduring seven years of hospital visits and cancer treatments, Dennerline, along with his musical collaborator and friend Palle Hjorth, released a new album in late 2018 under the band name Wall to Wall, aptly titled, *Waiting*.

The deeply personal album, which has been praised by critics in Denmark,

where Dennerline lives, is difficult to categorize in a single genre, but it has been compared to the early work of Peter Gabriel, the English singer and musician known for blending experimental sounds with pop and rock music.

"This album took a long time to complete, but I'm very proud of it," Dennerline said. "It's a truly existential series of songs, each with a unique perspective on what the important things in life are. It's not about my cancer—it's about living life to its fullest."

Dennerline, who grew up mainly in Amherst, Massachusetts, and is Danish-American, started playing music when he was just 5 years old, studying violin and learning saxophone before finally finding his home behind the drums. At Conn, Dennerline took a jazz history class that gave him a renewed interest in the music his parents had introduced him to when he was younger, and he played drums with a few student bands, including

two separate ska groups and a hard-core band called Egofilter. He also served as president for a year of the student-run organization, Musicians Organized for Bands' Rights on Campus (MOBROC), which occupies a unique performance and rehearsal space on campus in a renovated squash court where student bands can practice and play shows.

While Dennerline loves a wide variety of musical styles, he finds he's drawn to the experimental more than anything.

"I still have a soft spot in my heart for music that brings something new to the table," he said.

Storytelling is always the core motivation behind Dennerline's work, regardless of the medium, and that love of storytelling has guided his involvement in film as well. He has produced both feature movies and documentaries for film and TV, although he admits that filmmaking can never quite compete with his passion for music.

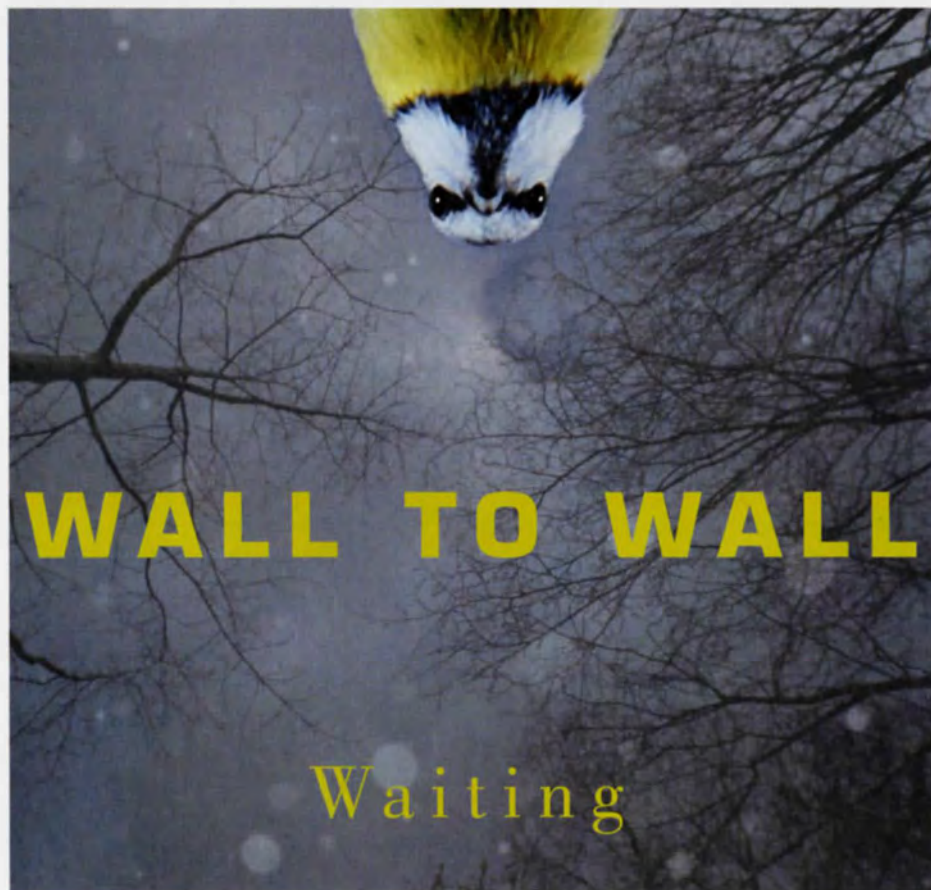
His newest album with Hjorth explores some new musical territory, but there's also a smoothness that hints at a shared familiarity between the musicians.

For 10 years, the two performed together in the band Forgetting Feet, a music and poetry project based in Copenhagen that focused on improvised rock and experimental sounds. Dennerline sang and wrote the poems and lyrics while Hjorth played the keyboard. When Dennerline was diagnosed with cancer, Hjorth vowed to collaborate with him on a new project in which they'd share in the songwriting. That project ultimately became *Waiting*.

Wall to Wall plans to tour throughout Denmark, and Dennerline hopes to secure some dates in the U.S. as well. But for now, the band is enjoying the positive response the album is getting from critics and listeners alike.

"Something about this album is really resonating with people, and we're just grateful they're listening," Dennerline said.

Waiting can be streamed just about anywhere, walltowall.dk





Preston Ridge Vineyard

It's All Business

When Andrew and Cara Sawyer decided to build a vineyard and winery in 2008, they had their work cut out for them.

Located in Preston, Connecticut, on an overgrown, 62-acre parcel of land that had once been home to a dairy farm, the property would eventually be transformed into the scenic Preston Ridge Vineyard. But not without its share of early challenges.

Over the holiday break, 16 Connecticut College students returned to campus early to participate in a five-day career preparation program that examined the challenges the vineyard overcame during its developmental stages, and to work directly with the Sawyers on crafting innovative ideas for growing their business even further.

The program, known as “Fast Forward: Everything is a Business,” is in its fifth year and continues to be popular among students from a broad spectrum of majors who engage in mock interviews, collaborate in groups to work on real case studies from local businesses

and hone their public speaking and presentation skills.

At the core of this year's case study was the Preston Ridge Vineyard, which, aside from having a tasting room, also hosts weddings, live music, outdoor yoga classes—and cows.

Noel Garrett, who serves as dean of academic support and director of the Academic Resource Center, created the program as a way for liberal arts students to learn business-based skills that could be applied in a number of careers that haven't traditionally emphasized that type of background.

“No matter what our students do when they leave Conn—non-profit, medical, investment banking, you name it—it is a business,” Garrett said. “We infused much more of that philosophy into the program this year, and I think that's part of why we drew students who are art majors and biology majors as well as the economics and finance majors. Whatever line of work they chose to go into, it's all business.”

Students are assigned roles as consultants in a variety of areas and present solutions to real problems the participating business has faced. This involves students traveling to the business site where they can interview employees and immerse themselves in the company. That face-to-face communication is something Garrett says is crucial to designing a tangible experience as opposed to a theoretical one in a textbook. The students agree.

“Originally, I applied for the Fast Forward program because I was interested in assessing a real business case study through different lenses such as management and marketing,” said Jitu Dribssa '22, a first-year international student from Ethiopia. “But the program really exceeded my expectations and was an opportunity I will always be grateful for.”

This year marked the third time Preston Ridge Vineyard has participated in Fast Forward, bringing new challenges and experiences to the table each time for students to grapple with.

King Kong

Khadija Tariyan '11 pulls the strings

FOR KHADIJA TARIYAN '11, it was love at first sight.

She and the other performers for the new \$35 million musical were assembled in the mezzanine of the Broadway Theatre where they were to meet the show's star. As the curtain rose on the stage below, revealing him, Tariyan burst into tears as the rest of the cast cheered, whooped and hugged.

There was King Kong, a massive 2.1-ton puppet—20 feet tall in full fury—moving toward center stage in a formidable knuckle walk, roaring with basso strength and staring at the cast with those dark, deep, glistening eyes.

Ah, the eyes.

"Once Kiko starts looking at you, it's over," Tariyan said during a recent break in rehearsals and referring to the nickname the cast has given the big ape—using the first two letters of each of the title words. "I love Kiko. I really do."

Tariyan is one of 10 athletic, agile puppeteers who move the giant silverback ape with their bodies, ropes and rigging. Three other puppeteers work the facial and other body movements animatronically from a soundproof "voodoo booth" in the back of the balcony, using joysticks and pedals that operate motors and hydraulics inside Kong's steel-skeleton body and carbon fiber skull.

At 5-foot-3 and 114 pounds, Tariyan is one of two women onstage puppeteers—who also sing, dance and act as part of the ensemble when Kong is not around.

"I can't wait until we take our bows and we take off our hoods and the audience sees there are two women who have been operating Kiko," Tariyan said.

At Connecticut College, Tariyan studied dance under choreographer and Professor of Dance David Dorfman. After a stint teaching dance at Conn following her graduation, Tariyan landed a gig in the off-Broadway production and tour of "Fuerza Bruta," an interactive sensory spectacle that tapped into her physical grace, strength and aerial artistry. That was followed by a gig in "The Wiz Live" and last year's audition for "King Kong," which opened on Broadway Nov. 8.

Every single movement by the giant ape is carefully choreographed in painstaking detail.

"I work his back left foot a lot in the beginning of the show," Tariyan said. "I also help on his elbow and I'm on his back a lot."

The challenges for Tariyan include not only demanding physical feats but also rushing in and out of costume. "We have to be able to get into a dress or suit and tie and be able to dance at the

same level as members of the rest of the ensemble," she said.

But manipulating Kong is a special activity that taps into Tariyan's empathy.

"A lot of times we take on the emotion of what Kiko is going through and we feel what he is feeling," she said. "The second act really puts me in an extremely emotional state, especially when I launch off his shoulder. That's the time where one of the planes comes to attack him and shoot him down off the Empire State Building. I'm the force that raises his hand against the plane and it feels like I'm the one who protects him."

Riding on the tall back of Kong is as much a mental challenge as a physical one, she says. "You stand on top of his shoulder and you see how high you are just before the launch and you're thinking, 'Well, this is live theater and anything can happen right now.' If you're waiting up there too long too many questions start entering your head."

Then comes her Kong "high."

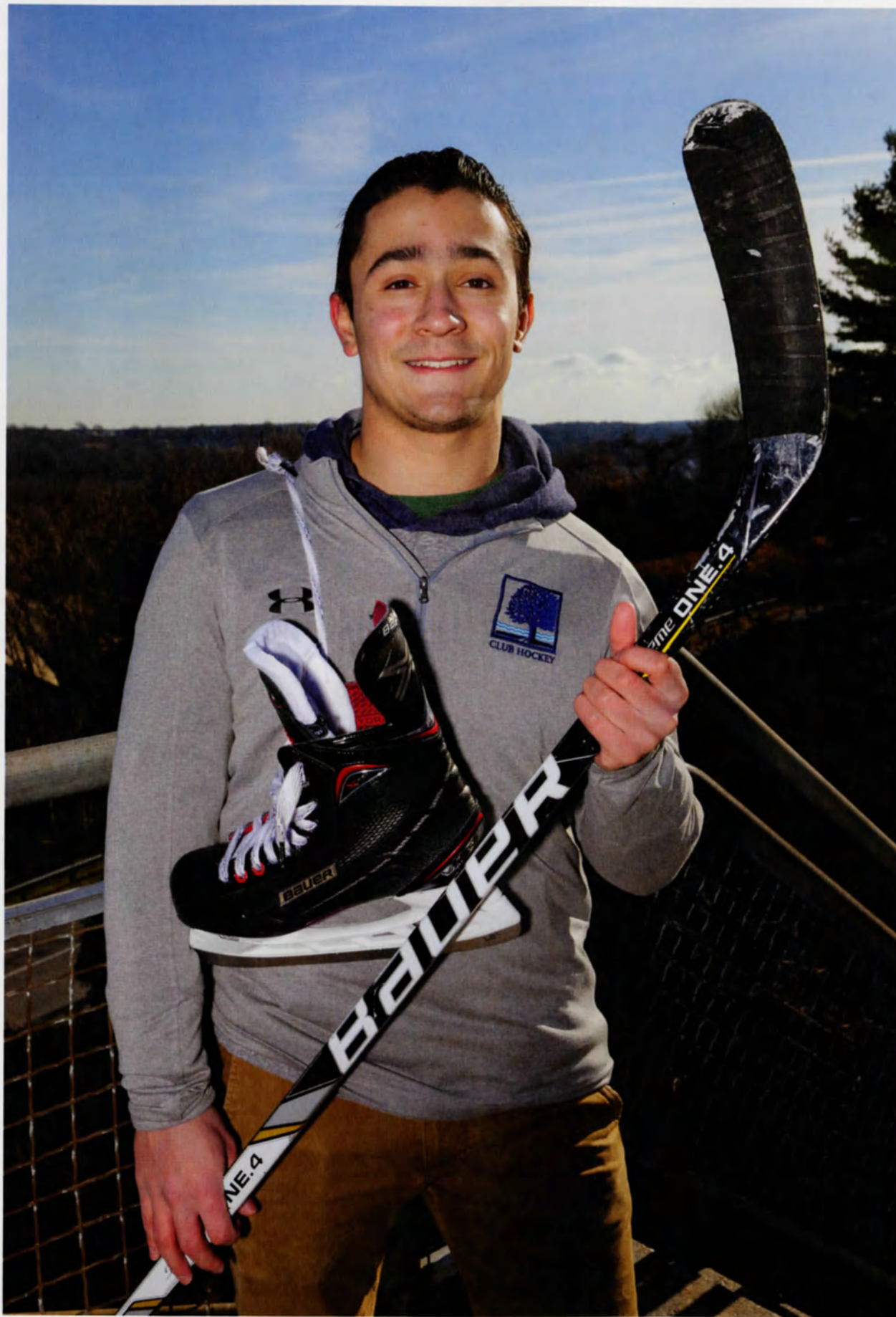
"But then you take off into the air and you're in full flight and you're now thinking, 'This is the best thing ever.' Then you land and it's like, 'OK, get me right back on him.'"

By Frank Rizzo, excerpted from an article originally published by Hearst Connecticut Media Group.



Matthew Murphy

Christiani Pitts as "Ann Darrow" with King Kong.



Miles Ladin '90

Cameron Segal '20

On the Ice

Conn's Learn to Skate Program

ALEX HAD NEVER SEEN SNOW, let alone skated on ice.

The seventh grader, whose family recently immigrated to New London from Ecuador, had never been inside a skating rink. But just four sessions into Conn's Learn to Skate Program, Alex laces up a pair of black hockey skates—with a little help from a member of Conn's club hockey team—and hits the ice.

Rocio Tinoco '17, Alex's teacher at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, watches carefully as he races confidently around Conn's Dayton Arena, a blur of red and khaki as he glides by.

"He had never been on the ice before, and look at him," Tinoco says. "It's amazing to watch."

Alex is one of nearly 30 newly arrived and dual-language middle schoolers learning to skate through Conn's program, started by Cameron Segal '20 as a means to introduce the sport of hockey to students who have recently immigrated to the U.S.

Segal, an American studies major who is also pursuing a secondary

teaching certification, grew up playing hockey. Because of his tan complexion, Segal says he was often teased when on the ice. Last winter, when a black player for the NHL's Washington Capitals was taunted with chants of "basketball," Segal developed the following animating question to guide his Pathway experience: Why is hockey considered a white sport?

Segal partnered with groups across Conn's campus to design the Learn to Skate program, thus providing access to a group of kids who otherwise wouldn't have had the opportunity to learn to skate. Watching the middle schoolers zip around the ice—some pushing orange traffic cones for balance, some holding Conn students' hands, some learning to skate backwards—Segal can't hide his enjoyment.

"I just love seeing them out there," he said.

Since many of the children speak Spanish, Viri Villalva-Salas '20 volunteered to help translate. As she chats with a few girls who are catching their breath on a bench, Anne Lamarre '19, a member of Conn's hockey club,

skates up to ask her how to say "Ready" in Spanish.

"*Listo*," Villalva-Sala says. Lamarre repeats it to the young boy she's trying to help off the wall. He nods and takes her hand.

"It's great to see people with all different types of backgrounds out here on the ice," Villalva-Salas says. "I come from a community so similar to the one they are growing up in, and they are doing something that when I was a kid wasn't an option."

"After-school activities are so important. We often think of access to education strictly in terms of academics, but these experiences help redefine what it means to have access to a college like Conn."

Segal has already scheduled more sessions for the spring semester. That's good news for Kelvin, a seventh grader who spent the last session this fall whizzing around the ice and—like a hockey player—strategically crashing into walls.

"I'm a pretty good ice-skater," he says. "I already signed up for the next session. That's my thing."

Prison Math

Precalculus at the York Correctional Institution

GOING TO PRISON is the highlight of Christopher Hammond's week.

On Monday evenings, the associate professor of mathematics and associate dean of the college for curriculum, leaves his Fanning Hall office and drives to the York Correctional Institute in Niantic, Connecticut's only correctional facility for women. After passing through various levels of security, he enters a small room, where more than a dozen inmates await his arrival.

For the next three hours, they are his students. They range in age from early 20s to mid-60s, and some of them haven't taken math in decades. But they are eager to learn.

The students are part of Wesleyan University's Center for Prison Education program, through which inmates at York and the Cheshire Correctional Institute are invited to take courses accredited by Wesleyan and Middlesex Community College. The students are admitted through a rigorous admissions process—including multiple essays and faculty interviews—and have the opportunity to earn an associate's degree from Middlesex.

Hammond says he never imagined himself teaching inside a prison. Yet he jumped at the chance in 2014 when he received an email from CPE requesting a math professor in the area who might be willing to teach at York.

"My father's father was a prison

warden in Georgia. I grew up hearing the stories and I think that planted a little seed in my mind," he said.

Still, Hammond admits that he had no idea what to expect the first time he went to the correctional facility, especially since he had only ever seen the inside of a prison in movies. He also had no idea how the students would react to him; he wondered if they might not take him—or the class—seriously. He needn't have worried.

"They are so kind and so engaged. Most of them never viewed themselves as going to college, so they take this opportunity very seriously and they are passionate about what they are learning," he said. "Many are honest that math isn't their favorite subject, but they work hard at it."

To complete the associate's degree, students need to pass Hammond's precalculus course. But first, he works with cohorts of students for several semesters on the prerequisite mathematics, starting in some cases with what he calls "pre-pre-algebra."

This summer, six members of his first cohort successfully completed the program and earned associate's degrees, including Elizabeth Behlman.

"I was your average college student, and I was not," Behlman said. "Being incarcerated and being in the predicament that I was, so often you are

defined by the fact that you are a criminal or that you are a prisoner. This program gave me the opportunity to be defined by something other than the case that put me in York, and that was a great motivator."

Behlman worked for five years to earn the two-year degree, including four with Hammond.

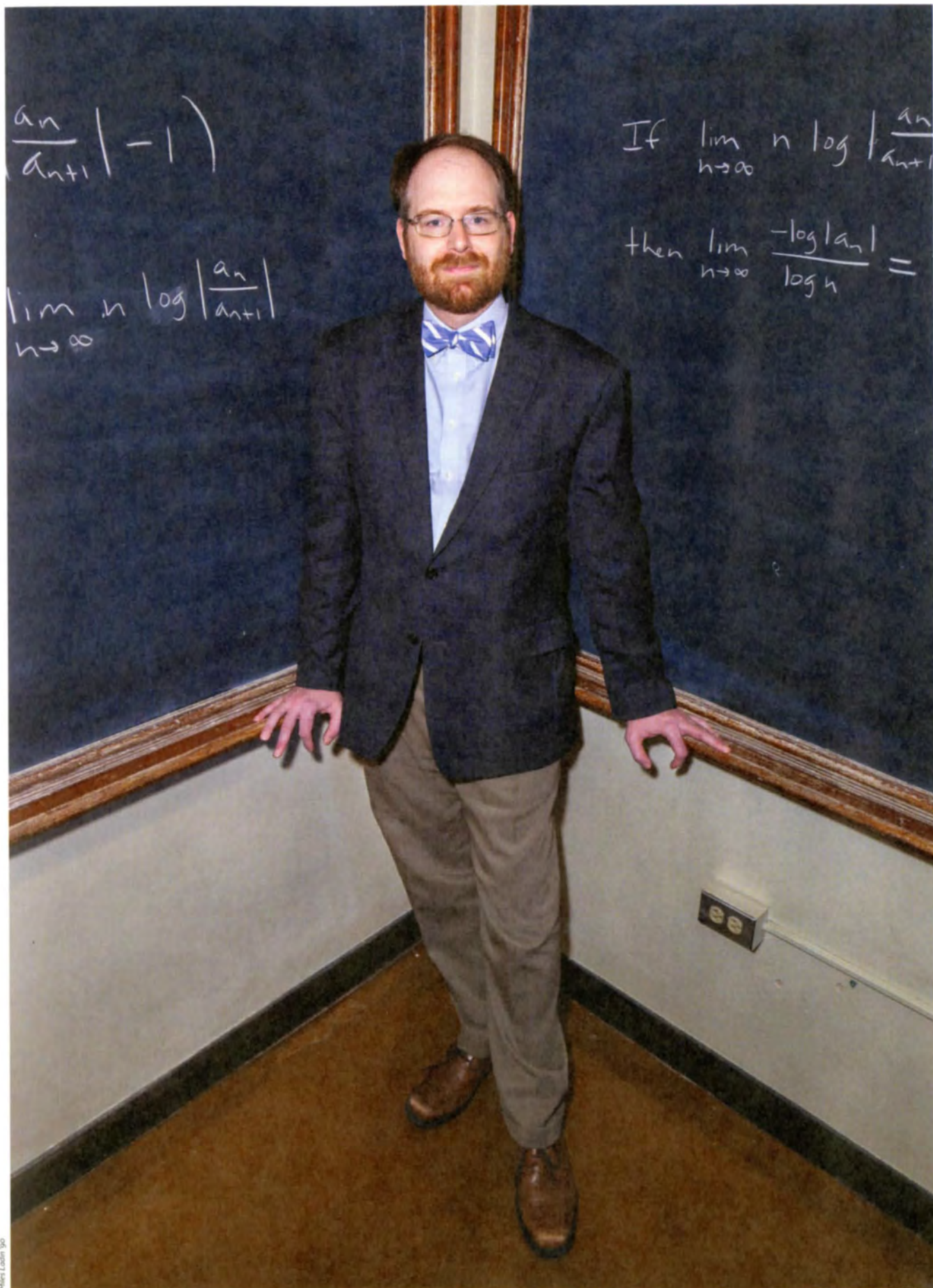
"I describe myself as a quiet, dorky person, and there was this kinship with him right off the bat," she said. "You can see he has a love for what he is doing. He is quirky and funny and made jokes in class—just this warm personality with this love for mathematics. And he kept coming back, semester after semester."

Behlman was recently released from York after serving 11 years for arson. Now, she's been accepted to Trinity College to study biochemistry.

Hammond hopes more of his students follow in Behlman's footsteps and eventually pursue bachelor's degrees. But even if they don't, he sees great value in the program.

"I hope my course is intellectually enriching, personally enriching and spiritually enriching in a way that will help my students lead more pleasant and meaningful lives," he said.

"If we are going to be serious about the term 'correctional facility,' we need to provide opportunities for these women to better themselves."



Matt Larkin '90



The Biology of Bias

Professor Danielle Egan analyzes gender and race relations

DANIELLE EGAN has many fascinations.

An accomplished author, educator and psychoanalyst, Egan chairs the Gender, Sexuality and Intersectionality Studies Department and also sees patients at her private practice in Stonington, Connecticut.

Egan, who joined Connecticut College in 2017, has written three books, a variety of scholarly articles and has garnered international recognition for her work as an analyst and researcher on topics like gender relations and the sex industry.

CC Magazine sat down with Egan in January to discuss the changing dynamics around gender, race and sexuality, and to get her take on a unique moment in American culture and the impact of the #MeToo movement.

CC Magazine: You're doing some interesting research about how people learn certain biases and prejudices. Can you talk about that work and how you're approaching it?

Danielle Egan: The project is in the formative stages, but it fuses several of

my interests. There's a lot of data that show that trauma is transmitted from generation to generation. We know that if you look at data on poverty, for example, there's evidence that the stress of poverty or the trauma of a violent partnership can have physical, biological impacts that are inherited—it actually affects mitochondria and fetal development. I'm interested in examining the inverse. If trauma gets passed through the generations, how is it that certain ideas about whiteness, or about cultural dominance, or about inequity are transmitted? Does it work similarly? If so, when does it get transmitted? People often talk about nature vs. nurture, but that's a false dichotomy, because they're intertwined.

CC: Is it possible people learn certain racial, cultural or gender biases earlier than we thought?

DE: The development of unconscious bias may happen at a very young age. Right now, I'm looking at those types of questions through the lenses of affective neuroscience, music theory and psychoanalysis to see how it is that ideas about dominant culture may be

transmitted before our language even forms. It may be that certain ideas that saturate our culture get transmitted to us prelinguistically and actually form the unconscious itself.

CC: So parents are completely unaware of how their children's perspectives are being shaped in certain ways, even while they're still in the crib?

DE: Right. That's not an uncommon idea in psychoanalysis—the idea that parents transmit ideas about sexuality and gender to their children unconsciously. These anxieties are passed on from generation to generation then form the unconscious and are often only triggered by our first intimate relationships. I'm expanding that idea to think through why it is that at certain times these irrational responses explode in us.

CC: The #MeToo movement has exposed the damaging behavior of some powerful men and has dramatically changed the conversation around gender relations. But critics of the movement claim there's a "war on men." Is that hyper-defensive backlash simply a

natural response to cultural change, or is there something deeper going on?

DE: It's probably more than one thing. You have a lot of people who would say, "Whiteness is under attack, or traditional masculinity and traditional values are under attack." I think some of that is about displacement. In a situation where you may feel powerless, you take that feeling and you project it onto someone else or something else. What interests me is how that type of projection or scapegoating is fueled by unconscious biases.

CC: A lot of the issues you talk about can be uncomfortable or emotional for students. How do you navigate sensitive discussions?

DE: It's really important that discussions about sensitive issues don't become hostile or aggressive, but I also don't want anybody to feel ignored or for their frustrations to build up. One thing I do with my students is to have them fill out log cards. During the last five minutes of class students can write anything they want. They can be mad at me, they can talk about the

dynamics of the class or about how they hated the reading. It's not graded, and it's only to me.

What I've found is if they're not holding that in for an entire semester, it gives space for the class to be more productive and students can engage with each other in a more reasoned, less explosive or hostile framework.

CC: With all the progress we've seen in recent years when it comes to awareness of gender identity, sexuality and issues of race, do we, as a society, need to pay more attention to the mental health and development of straight, white men, for example, who are responsible for the vast majority of mass shootings?

DE: Yes, it's definitely something that needs more attention. The American Psychological Association recently released its report on men and boys—something they'd previously done with a variety of other groups, and it found that dominant masculinity is harmful, which I agree with.

Certain forms of traditional, dominant masculinity can engender loneliness and also have a taxing quality of making men feel they have to prove

themselves over and over again, which leads to disproportionate numbers of heart attacks and other problems. I do think dominant masculinity plays a major role in that.

CC: How do you explain to people who may be unfamiliar with the work you do what intersectionality means and why gender studies is so important and relevant?

DE: Intersectionality centers on the idea that historically we have thought about topics like gender or sexuality or race in isolation. It's about taking a more holistic approach to examining them and how they relate to each other as opposed to using a narrow, compartmentalized focus.

Exploring these issues is essential to understanding the history of inequity and who bears the burden of something more than someone else. I don't think it's important that everybody become a feminist, and I'm not interested in political indoctrination. But we need to think through why certain forms of bias are so persistent and repetitive throughout history. That those patterns have a biological impact is fascinating to me.



The Quilt

Weighing 54 tons and composed of more than 48,000 panels dedicated to more than 94,000 individuals, the AIDS Memorial Quilt is the largest ongoing piece of community art in the world. In recognition of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, 2018, the Memorial Quilt was on display in Conn's Tansill Theater.

ON THE GRID

*Nate Heller '98 is providing solar
energy to underserved families
throughout West Africa.*

BY DOUG DANIELS





Nate Heller is ordering food at the La Gondole restaurant in Dakar's Point E neighborhood when I reach him by phone late one afternoon.

He's returned to town after spending the day in some remote villages in West Africa, where his company, PEGAfrica, is transforming the way people power their homes in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Senegal.

Throughout the region, it's typical for families of four or five to live in one-room mud huts, relying on one flashlight or a couple of kerosene lamps to provide light for basic activities like cooking and reading. For the hundreds of millions of people in Africa who don't have electricity, this requires regular trips into town, where they can purchase batteries, charge their cellphones and replenish their fuel supplies.

But Heller's company, which he co-founded and of which he serves as COO, has developed an innovative way to make those trips and their related costs unnecessary by providing home solar kits purchased through a pay-as-you-go model.

"If you live in a village and don't have electricity, you live in the dark a lot of the time," Heller explains.

"To power your home and to power your needs costs a lot of money because you're always buying batteries, always paying

to charge your phone. And for the amount of money that you're spending on those things over a five-year period, you could pay for a solar kit a couple of times over."

Heller says the major obstacle to people buying solar kits is that usually the upfront costs are too high. While people can spend a small amount of money each week on batteries over a long period of time, gathering a couple of hundred dollars at once to buy a kit isn't possible, and getting loans is especially difficult, since they have no real credit history or collateral.

"Normal credit institutions won't work with these customers, so we knew we needed to find a different way to make this work and to guarantee people will pay back their loans," says Heller.

"Our solar kit has a meter inside the battery, which can temporarily shut off power if payments aren't made on time, which essentially turns the kit itself into collateral and allows our customers to build a credit history, then purchase larger kits and products from us, like televisions and other appliances.

"So it provides a path to financial inclusion."

The key to being able to execute this financing model is the adoption of mobile money, which allows customers to instantly submit electronic payments directly from their phones, since most people don't have traditional bank accounts. Mobile



money has revolutionized financial access throughout Africa over the past decade, particularly for people in rural areas who can deposit cash at local, participating retailers and then maintain a digital account that can be used for purchases online and in brick and mortar stores that accept mobile payments.

Heller's company has also created incentives for customers to pay on time, including add-on kits for other appliances and, most notably, free hospitalization insurance.

"We've teamed up with a microinsurance company to establish the program, and it's something we're really proud of," Heller says. "If a customer is on time with their payments, then they're automatically enrolled, so if they get sick or are injured, they get a payout for each night they spend in the hospital."

A native of Washington, D.C., Heller's interest in social impact work was sparked at an early age. He recalls a determination to serve in the Peace Corps as early as 14, though he didn't set his sights on Africa until he came to Conn, where he majored in philosophy, became a CISLA scholar and developed fluency in French, which led to him studying abroad in Paris and later in Senegal.

"I broadly liked the idea of going to Africa but didn't really know where, so I essentially Googled 'philosophy, French and

Africa,' and Senegal popped up, which is how it began for me," Heller remembers when describing the genesis of his CISLA summer in Dakar.

When the time arrived for him to receive his Peace Corps assignment, with his French language skills and previous experience in Senegal, it made perfect sense to return to francophone Africa. The experience proved pivotal for Heller and set him on a path toward learning new languages, including Wolof, which was spoken in his village in Senegal; then, in later years, he learned to speak Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

After his Peace Corps service, Heller decided he wanted to pursue a career in international development, and he stayed in Africa for another couple of years working for a nongovernmental organization (NGO) before returning to the U.S. to attend the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins.

Following that program, he did a two-year fellowship with the United Nations—an experience that made him realize the traditional international development system simply wasn't making the type of impact he'd been hoping for.

Particularly frustrating to Heller was that nonprofits, despite being fueled by the best of intentions and sweeping



idealism, often aren't as effective as they can be, especially if an organization's wealthy benefactors are motivated more by the idea of what they're funding than by achieving tangible results. That's when Heller began thinking about for-profit models.

"I was really excited by social enterprise and business models for making change," he says. "I thought about what I believed had made the largest-scale impact in the areas I wanted to work in, and the two things that were apparent were microfinance and mobile phones. Both have done more to change people's lives in Africa over the past 20 years than anything else, and they're models that deliver a return on investment that enables organizations to operate on a scale that can reach far more people than a traditional NGO ever could," he believes.

With a renewed focus on the niche he wanted to serve, Heller decided to go to business school, and after graduating from the Yale School of Management, he moved to Ghana in 2012 to work with his current business partner, who had started a company selling solar kits.

"What I love about what we do as a for-profit is that it's far more empowering for the people we serve," Heller says. "If people in these villages don't like our products, they'll stop buying them, and we'll have to adapt or go out of business instead of being propped up by donors."

The business took some time to grow and to overcome a variety of obstacles, from navigating the initial distrust of


potential customers to expanding the use of mobile money to securing financing and viable partnerships with manufacturers of the equipment they provide. But after a few years of "wandering in the wilderness," as Heller describes it, the company is doing well and continuing to grow and expand its offerings, thanks to a combination of grant funding for the social impact work they do and private financing.

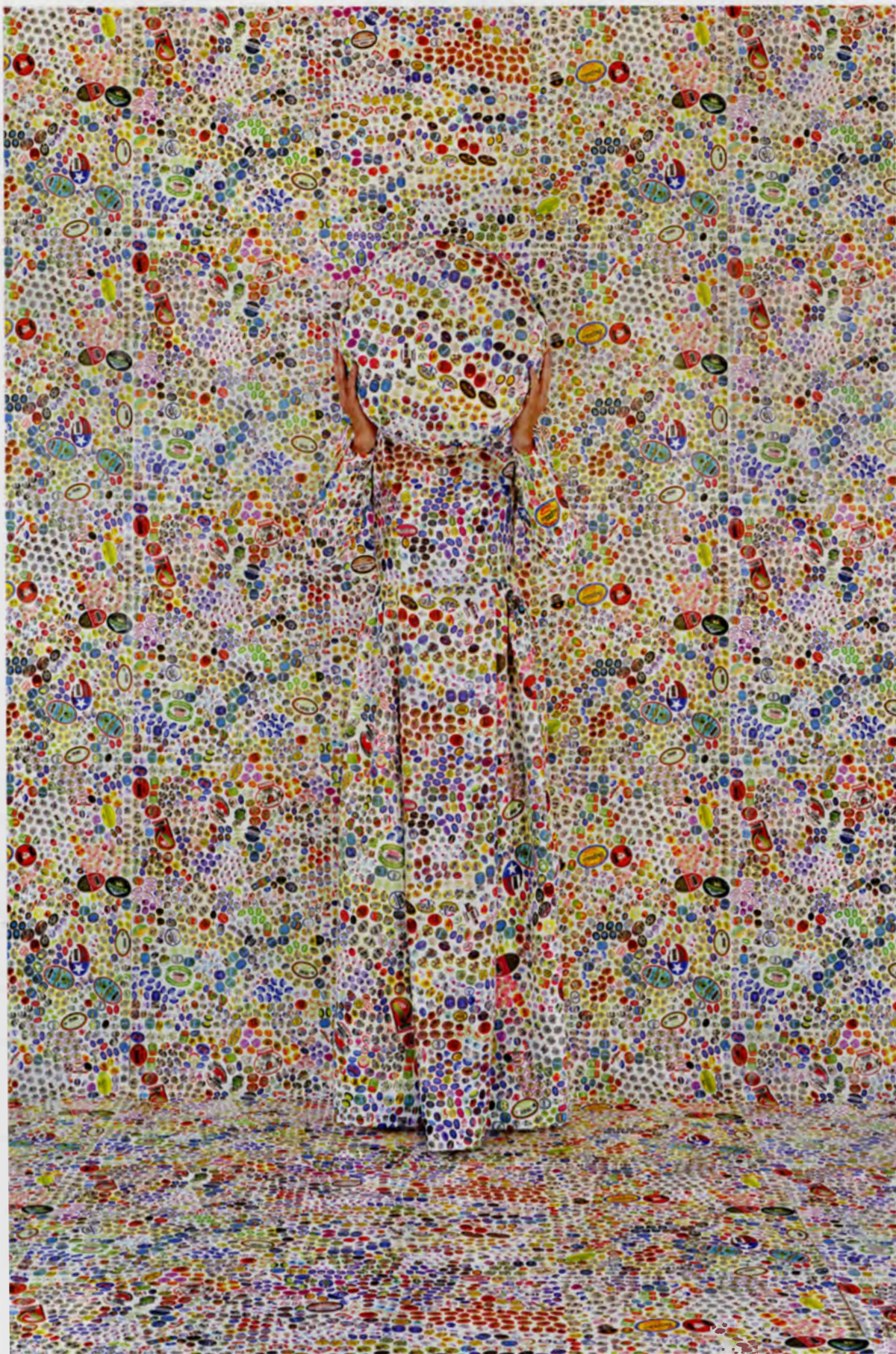
Heller says he's excited about the products they'll be offering down the road, including refrigerator kits that will bring some significant change to the villages PEG works with. And just as mobile phones have changed the lives of so many, the growing popularity of television among PEG's customers is something Heller thinks shouldn't be dismissed as frivolous.

"I feel like the introduction of TVs into homes can be game-changing in some ways," Heller argues.

Empirical data suggests that televisions help reduce the birth rate in the villages where Heller works, combating overpopulation.

But also, "when you live in a village of maybe 1,000 people, you have very little outside influence. Most people never really talk to anybody that comes from anywhere outside their little region. Having outside information suddenly coming in gives villagers the ability to see images of things that are unlike anything they've ever experienced.

"It opens up people's minds, [populating] these minds with new ideas." 



Lost in My Life (Fruit Stickers Standing with Round), 2018. Archival pigment print. © Rachel Perry. Courtesy of the artist and Yancey Richardson Gallery.

LOST IN MY LIFE

*Whether making breakfast or working on a drawing,
'it's all art' to Rachel Perry '84.*

BY AMY MARTIN

Conceptual artist Rachel Perry prefers to work at home. Home, in this case, is a grand 10th-floor Brooklyn sublet with sweeping views of the city. Much of the apartment resembles a museum, with ornate pieces of antique furniture, art and drapery tucked neatly into every corner.

The space seems perfectly appropriate for Perry, whose work runs the gamut of art forms, often blurring the lines between drawing, sculpture, video, collage, photography, installation and performance. Her New York studio (she splits her time between the city and Massachusetts' North Shore, where she also has a home studio) is a spare bedroom. While small, it functions well enough for Perry, who oscillates between working on pieces—like the latest in her Chiral Drawings series, in which she uses her left and right hands to draw lines with found pens, pencils and markers—and completing life's mundane tasks, like emptying the dishwasher.

"My work and life are intertwined," Perry says.

Much of Perry's work is itself a commentary on the business of living. On the spare bed in her studio are four prints of her latest work, the newest in her *Lost in My Life* series of staged self-portraits in which she is surrounded and mostly obscured by everyday objects like twist ties, cereal boxes, receipts, or in this case, fruit stickers—items typically recycled from life's routines. In the oddly captivating images, the brightly colored stickers found on supermarket bananas, apples, oranges and other fruit completely cover the floor and the wall behind Perry, who dons sticker-covered clothing and blends nearly completely into a couch wrapped in the same pattern.

"Fruit stickers are full of information—economic, political, social—rich with suggestions. Where does our fruit come from?

How do we brand nature?" says Perry, who uses beauty as a strategy to draw the viewer into the deeper subtext of the piece.

"I hope to make people see the world we live in—which we are consumed by—a little differently."

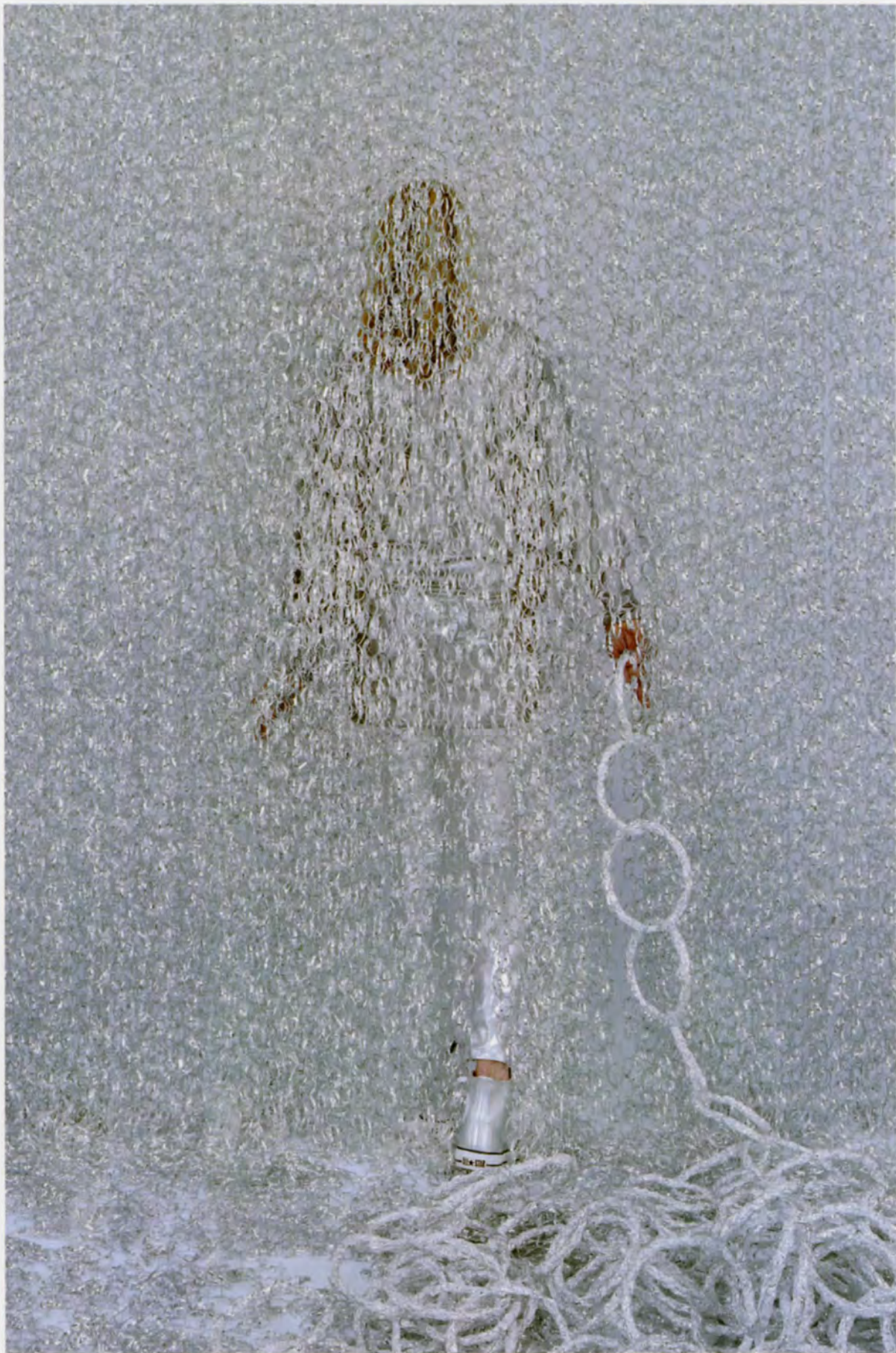
CONTROLLING CHAOS

While every piece of art has a story, Perry's work can be considered like a series of chapter books. Held in numerous museums and private collections around the world—including the Museum of Fine Arts and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and the List Visual Arts Center at MIT—each piece has a layered history behind its creation.

Perry is currently working on an all-blue chiral drawing. What started as an idea scribbled into the sketchbook she keeps handy, "Make a drawing using your left hand and your right hand, in order to incorporate your whole body into the work," was combined with another, "Make a drawing using every pen, pencil and marker that you own."

"It's about taking these everyday materials to the extreme," she says. "Not just pens and pencils and markers, but every single writing implement in the whole household—I'm going through sofa cushions, desk drawers, my car, everything."

Perry has made several dozen of these drawings, and also used them for a *Lost in My Life* portrait. Now, she is expanding the series by collecting the writing instruments of authors she admires, including Lisa Brennan-Jobs, Atul Gawande, John Cheever, and his daughter Susan. (Philip Roth also agreed to participate before his death; Perry has requested his pens, pencils and markers from his estate.)



Lost in My Life (Silver Twist Ties #3), 2011. Archival pigment print. © Rachel Perry. Courtesy of the artist and Yancey Richardson Gallery.



Lost in My Life (Boxes), 2009. Archival pigment print. © Rachel Perry. Courtesy of the artist and Yancey Richardson Gallery.

"I tend to work in series in ways that are labor-intensive, reusing materials and reworking ideas as I move through the process," Perry says.

At any given time, Perry is working on multiple projects simultaneously, a process itself shaped by the competing priorities of modern life.

"I started making art professionally when I had a young child. I found oil painting frustrating because you had to wait for it to dry. So I started working with materials that I could easily pick up and put down," she says.

"A lot of what I make is an attempt to control the chaos of life."

WRONG NUMBER

Perry didn't go to art school until she was in her 30s, eventually earning a four-year diploma and a fifth-year certificate from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She was always an artist, she says, but it wasn't until her own mother, a former senior research scientist for Polaroid, graduated from art school in her 50s that Perry realized she could make art her full-time profession.

An avid reader, Perry is fascinated with language, which she says is the underpinning of much of her work. She studied English and minored in French at Conn, although she points out she first attended the College's Children's Program as a preschooler, after her father, Professor John Curtis Perry, was hired to help launch Conn's East Asian Studies program. As a senior, she finally began to explore art, taking courses with collagist Maureen McCabe, graphic designer Richard Lukosius and master calligrapher Charles Chu, whom her father had helped bring to Conn nearly two decades before.

After graduation, she worked for a time in advertising, but quit just before the premature birth of her son, Asa Welty '13. Her first major work, which she completed while still in art school, was a drawing that involved transcribing Welty's entire 645-page medical chart onto 23 sheets of 18- by 24-inch vellum. The deeply personal piece allowed her to explore issues of privacy and information overload, two recurring themes in her work.


One of Perry's best-known works, *Karaoke Wrong Number*, is

a humorous and poignant take on humanity's fast-and-loose relationship with personal information. In the seven-minute video, Perry perfectly lip-synchs five years' worth of wrong-number messages she's received.

"I felt as though I really came to know these people through the process of listening, memorizing, paying attention to the linguistic tics and habits of their voices. They of course had a blind faith that their information was getting to the right source," she says.

Now part of the permanent collection at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, *Karaoke Wrong Number* made Perry a finalist for the 2006 Foster Prize. Since then, she has received four fellowships from the MacDowell Colony and was artist-in-residence at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. She is also a three-time recipient of the Massachusetts Cultural Council Award for Excellence, the only artist in its history to win in three separate disciplines: photography, drawing and sculpture.

In 2011, Perry was commissioned to create a four-page pictorial essay for *Vogue*, and she has twice been commissioned by *The New York Times*, most recently as part of the #MeToo movement coverage. For that piece, Perry created several dozen brightly colored protest signs with familiar expressions—"Boys will be boys," "It's just locker room talk," "Why didn't she speak up sooner?"—and turned them upside down on her set. Perry, wearing all black, appears in the middle of the photograph, her face obscured by the plain white protest sign she is holding—upright—that bears the words "me too." Perry captions the photo, "The world has turned upside down, and it began with one true voice."

While #MeToo is decisively political, Perry believes all art is. As she explains it, "What I'm after is truth, and what's more political than that?" 

Halos, a series of constellation-like drawings each featuring 445 embossed, gold-leafed and numbered dots inspired by the gilded dots that form the halo in Botticelli's painting *Virgin and Child with Saint John the Baptist* will be on display at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in the fall of 2019.



Soundtrack to My Life: Goodbye Yellow Brick Road by Elton John (Grocery Store), 2017. Magazine clippings and polyvinyl adhesive on kozo paper © Rachel Perry. Courtesy of the artist and Yancey Richardson Gallery.





THE RIVER

In a new National Geographic film, editor and writer Brian Newell '05 crafts a tale of the human and environmental threats faced by Africa's mighty Okavango River Delta.

BY DANIEL F. LE RAY

The Okavango River Basin, a wild ecosystem that spans Angola, Namibia and Botswana, provides sustenance and habitat to a breathtaking diversity of wildlife. The world's largest remaining population of African elephants bathes in its waters. Lions and cheetahs hunt the surrounding plains. Hundreds of rare bird species nestle on its banks while crocodiles slip beneath its surface. In northern Botswana, the river turns into one of the planet's most Edenic landscapes—the vast wetland wilderness known as the Okavango River Delta.

Into the Okavango, a National Geographic documentary film released in December, follows South African conservation biologist Dr. Steve Boyes, Angolan marine biologist Dr. Adjany Costa and Botswanan boatman Tumeletso “Water” Setlabosha as they travel by traditional canoe (*mokoro*) more than 1,500 miles down this massive river toward the delta, a site under increasing threat from human activity.

One million people rely on the Okavango river system for water. These same people, though, pose an ever-increasing danger to the delta's animal and ecological welfare. The film chronicles activities ranging from agricultural development in Angola to electricity projects in Namibia to human incursion into wildlife habitat in Botswana that are reducing the area's biodiversity.

Brian Newell '05 served as editor and writer on *Into the Okavango*. He and director Neil Gelinas spent 18 months

crafting a character-driven story documenting the adventure of a lifetime, one that also encourages its audience to better protect this near-pristine paradise.

But before the final cut hit the screen, Newell started with an “ungodly amount of footage”—literally hundreds of hours of film.

“At some point, you just have to pick scenes and start cutting,” said Newell, who began editing before Gelinas had returned from the four-month expedition. “The most important thing is for people to fall in love with this place right away.”

So although the literal journey began in Angola—where the explorers were escorted through fields of undetonated landmines, a relic of the country's 27-year civil war—the film opens in the delta.

Once people have connected with the location, “you try to create these ups and downs of emotion to keep people feeling both excited and also worried about the [Okavango].”

Providing structure throughout the film was the protagonists’—Boyes, Costa and Setlabosha—trek from the highlands of Angola to the Botswanan delta.

“That was a great backbone, because even if we were messing around with [the narrative] and jumping around a bit, we knew that these people are thousands of miles up this river with one goal—to get down it,” said Newell.

By journey's end, the scientists collected data from 50,000 locations along the way, chronicling dozens of new

scientific discoveries and shedding fresh light on the delicate interconnections that bind humankind with nature.

"They're doing all this science as they go, collecting data, but they're on their way toward the delta. That journey acted as a kind of true north."

UNLIKE FEATURE FILMS, which have scripts and storyboards, documentaries like *Into the Okavango* rely on editors and writers to build their narratives after filming is complete.

"There's really no good word to describe what happens in documentary postproduction. It goes beyond editing. You really are crafting a story from the raw materials in a very writerly way," Newell said.

Gelinas, who co-wrote and co-edited the film, gave his colleague free rein.

According to Newell, "Neil wanted to give me a good amount of rope to look at everything objectively. Since I was not out in the field [filming], I was seeing it all for the first time, just like the audience would, and could take a really objective look at how we might make this compelling."

Newell and Gelinas first collaborated on Pristine Seas, a National Geographic ocean conservation project that combines science and media to inspire country leaders, business leaders, nongovernmental organizations and local governments to preserve our oceans.

"Media was a critical part of the project, because a lot of times the way to reach these government leaders is to inspire them and make them feel really proud and emotionally excited about these amazing places," Newell said.

Working on Pristine Seas, Gelinas met Boyes, the South African conservationist who is an expert on the wildlife of the Okavango Delta. Inspired by Pristine Seas, the pair brought together policymaking and media—what Newell calls "the inspiration angle." The filmmakers hope that *Into the Okavango* will make the delta a household name—the first step toward safeguarding its future.

NEWELL FOUND HIS PASSION for editing during his time at Conn.

In documentary film classes, "usually, every person was the auteur—the writer, the shooter and the editor of their own projects," he said. But in one collaboration, students were told to choose one of five jobs: writer, producer, director, cameraperson or editor.

"I knew how much I liked editing at that point, but that was sort of a cementing moment for me. From there on out, I was pretty confident that editing was where I wanted to focus."

Marathon four-hour screenings of black-and-white German films taught Newell patience—and gave him the confidence to approach filmmaking as art. This artistic license was put to good use on *Into the Okavango*.







"Instead of a straight science or expedition documentary, Neil wanted the film to be lyrical, and the great thing is that that was obviously built into the way [it was] shot," Newell said.

"As an editor that was exciting because it allowed me to go down editing roads that I hadn't really had a chance to before and get a little bit thoughtful and poetical."

Newell's career in nonfiction film, including dabbling in reality television, started in the Washington, D.C., area, which remains his home base.

"Originally it was where I was and where the work was," Newell said, but after more than a decade, documentary is still where his heart is—even if it's a tough genre.

"It's really challenging because it's just so unpredictable—but that's also what's sort of exciting about it."

And while working at National Geographic can be unpredictable, "you can feel good about yourself. You're working on something positive."

As a producer and editor, Newell works on a wide range of films, from feature documentaries to shorts "where we're targeting a specific political leader and focusing on whatever we need to do to convince them" of a conservation project's value.

However, in the feature documentary world, where the general public is the audience, a film must have broad appeal.

"We're just trying to make something compelling. We can't get bogged down in the science or the policy details," he said.


For that reason, *Into the Okavango* foregrounds the human component of the story: the three explorers, two of whom—Costa and Setlabosha—are from the region.

"You just have to step back and try to figure out the simplest way to tell the story and to get to the really good stuff, which is the characters and the heart and the emotion and the excitement," Newell said.

"We always kept trying to make sure that people were connecting to the characters and also to the place, because the Okavango is definitely its own character."

Finding the balance between heart and mind—between the beauty of the landscape and the notion that it is critically endangered—is at least partly in the edit. Stunning aerial views of the delta are accompanied by footage of Boyes, Costa and Setlabosha journeying through war-torn Angola, finding tributaries reduced to trickling streams and encountering previously lush woodlands burnt to the ground, forming a "desolate ash-covered zone ravaged by fire" that the locals had set to "flush out animals that fall into large pitfall traps," according to the film's press notes.

With these types of documentaries "you do need to find that balance between how much you're inspiring people and how much you're scaring them," Newell stressed.

"When you're lost in the weeds of editing, you remember that you're doing this for a reason and the film can actually improve the world and people's lives." 

My Bishop

Michael Collier '76 is the author of seven collections of poetry, including his latest, *My Bishop and Other Poems*, which includes the following three selections: "Funky Stuff," "Boom Boom," and "Anecdote of the Piano in the Woods."

FUNKY STUFF

For a dead guy you looked pretty good,
because not only was your t-shirt clean
and you'd lost some weight but your faded tattoo
had been brightened beyond newness, restored
like the Sistine Chapel, and the acne divots
along your neck and cheek had been filled in
and even the deoxygenated liver color
of your skin had pinked up, so I thought
maybe the afterlife, which you never believed in,
was like purgatory, a place you got your body
ready for the limbo party of paradise,
but because this was a dream,
we were in a high-ceilinged attic, and you
who had never hoarded anything had filled
the space with piles of clothes, magazines
and newspapers stacked like pillars,
columns of books still in their shrink-wrap.
Here and there were clumps of rubber gloves—
black, orange, lavender, and yellow—for what
you called "the funky stuff." I asked, "What's
the funky stuff?" And you said, "I don't know,
but no one wants to touch it."

BOOM BOOM

I leave my backyard and enter the alley in search of my poetry. I get lost a few houses down near the Eldridge's because all the fences and trash cans are identical. I am alone filling a shirt pocket with the bees David Hills eviscerates by pulling out their stingers and that he has lined up on a flap torn from a cardboard box that's pinned to the ground with four small stones. In a toolbox I have a small hammer and screwdrivers for taking things apart. Above me is the sky that is always blue. (This means at night the stars are what I see but can't count.) The alley is dirt. My shoes scuff its uneven surface. Suddenly a door opens, a dog barks, it's Boom Boom, a Chihuahua, not even a dog in my mind. It rushes its side of the fence and is so much louder and fiercer than it needs to be. After a while it stops. Now it sounds like a tambourine because of a collar with tiny bells. Passionflowers grow in a thick vine over Boom Boom's fence. I have been told the leaves of these flowers are the lances that pierced Jesus's chest and broke his legs. Boom Boom is whimpering, lying down near a place in the fence through which I squeeze my hand to touch his nose. "Boom Boom," I say, very quietly, "I love you. You are the only one who understands me." Afterwards, I feel very small and very large, restrained and freed, and certain there is a purpose to life beyond the one I've been given.

ANECDOTE OF THE PIANO IN THE WOODS

I came upon a piano in the woods.
Its silver casters balanced on three stones.
A harp lay inside the lean-to of its top.

No bench, except the air, which meant
its silence roused the trees.
The leaves were the music's million,

million ears. The limbs, a hundred
thousand raised batons. Pollen was
yellow snow on its lacquered skin.

Like a swinging bridge above a flooded
creek the keys were rippling dominoes,
and the water running beneath,

molded to the shape of stones below,
was an always moving, never changing
melody, a surface score whose swells

and hollows, whose shadows, read
by sight, sounded a chorus of a single note,
that sounded like a piano in the woods.



Celebrating the College's Brightest Stars



Connecticut College held the inaugural Ad Astra Society Induction Ceremony on Oct. 25, 2018 at the Midtown Loft & Terrace, in New York City. The Ad Astra Society recognizes the College's most generous donors who have made lifetime gifts and commitments of \$1 million or more.

Twelve new members were inducted in the Ad Astra Class of 2018: Tim Armstrong '93; Nancy '72 and Preston Athey; Brad and Jane Brown P'12 '15 '20; Will Eglin '86; Carol Jaffa Feinberg '49, GP'19; Sally Fenton '63; Rob '88 and Karen Hale P'20; Virginia Levick '59; Eugene Mercy Jr. P'91; Sandra Shahinian '74; Dhuanne '64 and Douglas Tansill; and Pam Zilly '75. In attendance that evening were longstanding Ad Astra members Ann Werner Johnson '68, Barbara Shattuck Kohn '72, Susan Eckert Lynch '62, and Nancy MacMillan '67.

"I was so pleased that we had the opportunity to acknowledge those who have meant so much to the success of Connecticut College," said President Katherine Bergeron. "It's through the visionary philanthropy of our Ad Astra members that this College is continually being lifted to new heights."

The Ad Astra Society was established in 1996, and the beautiful Ad Astra Garden, a gift from Susan Lynch in memory of her mother, is a campus landmark. Planted at the

top of Tempel Green and featuring stunning views of Long Island Sound, the garden features a central sundial-fountain designed by the late David Smalley, Henry B. Plant Professor Emeritus of Art, enclosed by stone benches on which the names of the members are engraved.

At the induction, new members received a beautiful crystal globe with a three-dimensional engraving of the sundial at its center. The Latin name "Ad Astra," meaning "to the stars," together with the sundial symbolizes the commitment of those who have gone above and beyond in their support, making it possible for Connecticut College to reach higher and higher levels of distinction.

"I love the idea of giving back to the College that shaped so much of who I am," said inductee Will Eglin. Reflecting on his business success and the strong team he has built, Eglin said, "When I look around the table at my senior partners, I see honorable people with honorable values, which is to say, I see a reflection of my Conn education. It was at Connecticut College that I really began to understand the importance of what it means to do the right thing."

The Ad Astra Society currently includes 76 members. This year's Ad Astra Society induction ceremony marks the first of what will be an annual fall event.



Photos by Nick Gallo

Brad Brown P'12 '15 '20, Nancy Athey '72, Carol Jaffa Feinberg '49, GP'19, Katherine Bergeron, Sandra Shahinian '74, Barbara Shattuck Kohn '72, Ann Werner Johnson '68, Nancy MacMillan '67 and Will Eglin '86.



Katherine Bergeron and Ann Werner Johnson '68



Katherine Bergeron and Susan Eckert Lynch '62

CC Magazine welcomes your Class Notes and submissions. Class Notes for the summer issue are due **August 1, 2018**. Please contact your class correspondent, email notes to classnotes@conncoll.edu or submit Class Notes online at: conncoll.edu/news/cc-magazine

R denotes a Reunion class year. Reunion 2019 will be held May 31-June 2, 2019.

45 Correspondent: *Ann LeLievre Hermann*, 239-410-0668, annlehermann26@gmail.com Holiday greetings to my '45 classmates and friends! A delightful Florida Thanksgiving has come and gone ... now the deadline for submitting this class column is a reality; then Christmas and Hanukkah are not far behind. First let me share messages from our classmates, and then I will tell you about a surprise that will be ours in the new year, 2019. **Ruth Veevers Mathieu** wrote, "Received your message. Haven't replied in a while. All is well. I have been playing bridge regularly, attending family weddings around the country and hope to spend a few months in Florida this winter. The years are piling up, but I try not to pay attention. Hope you are well. It has been awhile since I went to a reunion. If any class members plan to attend the next one, I would like to know. I debated about the last one but didn't know if anyone else was going." Our next reunion will be in two years, 2020, and I agree with Ruth: Let's keep each other informed if we are able to attend. **Mariechen Wilder Smith** emailed, "As for me, I now live in our assisted care facility called the Fairways. I made the decision to move from independent living in my villa located on our golf course to a very nice apartment in the Fairways. My view includes looking down at the first tee of the golf course; I am on the third floor. Misty, my beagle-basset friend, came with me, but last week she moved to Cary to live at my daughter Mandy's home. There she has a lovely backyard to wander around in plus two friends, Lucy and Bunny. Naturally, I miss her but, as a friend mentioned, this is her retirement plan. I continue my activities since I am still on two committees, and I invite friends, three at a time, for happy hours in my apartment and then dinner in our own dining room and kitchen. I have retired from golf but now am learning how to play croquet, the adult game, which means strategy is important. I am enjoying it; I play three times a week on our own croquet course. I am fortunate—my health is still good, so I can enjoy my life. With all best wishes to the Class of '45." From **Florence (Flo) Murphy Gorman**: "I'm still here and, despite a bit of memory loss, e.g., no quick recall of a name as I approach someone in the hall, I manage to keep going. I am the oldest member of my family. I think it's called being the 'duena.' "Life goes on at Cedarfield. It's a pretty nice place. At 95, so far I am able to get around without assistive devices

and drive in the daytime. Exercise classes, water aerobics, craft classes and duplicate bridge keep me off the streets with modest success. My four children, eleven grands and five-year-old great-grand are nearby. Four grands married this year; actually, the fourth will be in December. I'm having trouble finding something different to wear each time, in case anyone remembers or cares what I wore before! "CC memories—hmm—I remember a painting of The Great Auk in the living room at Windham and a few of us getting hysterical imitating its walk. Also, each of our crowd imitated our favorite character in *Winnie the Pooh*. I was Eeyore, gloomy. Have you seen the current movie? I thought it was very good. Imagine all these years later! Well that is surely more than enough. Love to all, Murph" The next message came from **Suzanne (Suki) Porter Wilkins**: "Hi, Ann—You are great to keep this information going! I don't have much to add except that we have been living in a very nice home for the aged called Sweetwood, and it is close to the house we built in Williamstown some 30 years ago. They try to keep us all busy and entertained, which is very helpful. Best wishes to all, Suki Wilkins" **Mary Watkins Wolpert** wrote, "Count me in! I don't often have much news. We live a very quiet life here in Colorado Springs. Our family is scattered. We have two sons—one lives in Boulder, CO, and the other the other in Naples, FL. Grandchildren are in Boulder, Indiana, St. Louis and England. All are well and mostly retired. Happy holidays to you all. Mary" From **Marjorie McClellan Feehey**: "Yes, I am interested in hearing news about my former classmates. Most have had exciting and interesting lives in contrast to mine, and I like to hear about them. I enjoy reading the news and about the activities of my former classmates, and am happy that so many of us are still "functioning." After 30 years of teaching mathematics, I worked in the human services field. My hobbies have included breeding and training Shetland sheepdogs, organic gardening, and dabbling in watercolors. I am fortunate to be self-sufficient. I can still drive, mow the grass, shovel the paths, do minor household repairs and stack wood for my stove, and still possess most of my 'original' parts. Where did all those 73 years go? Marge" From **Toni Fenton Tuttle**: "You may be fascinated by this one. As you know, I had planned a river cruise with my sister to eastern Europe. As it turned out, I fell on the way to meet my sister in Atlanta. Not knowing what I had done to myself, long story short, I continued on the trip, never getting off the ship before landing in Budapest, Hungary. My sister wheeled me about the ship. She reported to me what she saw at each of the ports of call. In Budapest, where a doctor took me from the hotel to his clinic and then back to the hotel, I discovered I had fractured a bone in the pelvic area. Unfortunately there is nothing to be done except rest. Anyway, three months later I am slowly recovering, but what an experience! Should be normal in a couple of months. I may have already told you all, but my exciting news is that great-grandchild No. 8 was born in April. That makes for seven boys and just one girl. I trust all is well with you ...



Janice Somach Schwalm '47 P'69 GP'03 and Meredith E. Kenny '21 both from Scottsdale, AZ met by chance at the nursing home that Janice is living in when Meredith was there visiting her grandfather who is also a resident.

Toni Tuttle From **Natalie Bigelow Barlow**: Hi, Ann—I guess I haven't answered because life has been routine. There's an interesting mix of activity here in New Hampshire, with family and Sherborn friends, that has been interrupted two times by injuries to my leg. For someone who grew up as an only child, as were my parents, my son married into a family with lots of cousins who are having babies—my great grandchildren. I read our alumni bulletin with great interest. I hope all is well with you and your family. I look forward to news of everyone and wish you a happy holiday season. **Nat Barlow** From **Patricia (Pat) Feldman Whitestone**: "Hi Ann, Busy time, very busy on the internet. Hope this email gets through. No big news here. Still active on our community's library committee. Enjoy anything to do with books ... You asked for Conn. memories. Ancient history at the college now, but I do remember fondly how seriously I/we took such events as the Competitive Sings and the Competitive Plays—our Class won some of them. Then there was the Mascot Hunt and the Melodrama. Of course we can talk about posture pictures, the old gym, sign-out/in rules, men restricted to main dorm levels, how The War changed our diet and services, military drills, and so on. Mostly fond memories now. Greeting to all classmates. Pat" **Pat Whitestone's** sharing of some of her now-fond memories leads beautifully into my surprise ending to this column! Actually, I had found myself thinking of negative memories of "posture pictures" and had written to our alumni office to see what I could learn of last three. This is what I wrote: "Hi! My latest brilliant thought is that I would love to be able to have a report to give to my classmates about "the history of 'posture pictures,' which were required for graduation back in the '40s. I have no recollection that I ever knew when they stopped demanding posture pictures, nor do I know what ever happened to them. ... Are they still in somebody's file or did they get shredded? Or wherever else one might have put our presumed scientific project that we were all forced to be a part of? Would you be willing to dig into the subject for me and/or tell me how I might be able to find answers to some of the questions? I would appreciate your help and your guidance!" And this is the response that I received: "Ann, Valerie O'Brien forwarded me your email. Faculty and students recently took part in a multiyear, interdisciplinary multimedia research and artistic project on the subject of the posture



Judy Kuhn '49 Johnson in her 1955 MG TF 1500 after winning the Peekskill Grand Prix

portraits. I have contacted a faculty member for a description of the project and some outcomes. I'm not sure of the fate of the portraits themselves, but will ask her too. The project was quite postmodern and carried out through the Ammerman Center for Arts and Technology." Bye for 2018 ... it will be 2019 when we chat again. Ann

49 **Reunion Chairperson: Judy Kuhn Johnson,** judyjrealestate@gmail.com Since we don't have a correspondent and, sadly, our class president, Joan Jossen Bivin, passed away in June 2018, I decided to step forward and communicate with our class. Also, the college has asked me to step in as president, so you will be receiving the annual letter from me. Our 70th reunion is coming up May 31-June 2, 2019. We had 17 return for our 65th, which set a record, so out of our 116 remaining, let's set another record. We need volunteers for the phone team and a class correspondent, so please contact me if you are willing to help. As for news, my group on the fourth floor of Harkness started a round robin 69 years ago (13 of us) and it is still going around, with five of us left: Margaret (Pooh) Ashton Biggs, Mabel Brennan Fisher, Lucky Siller Victory, Gretchen Van Suckle Whalen and myself. Pooh, Lucky and Gretchen are all living in independent and assisted living facilities and enjoying the lifestyle very much. Mabel is in her own place (with 24-hour care), and I am in my own condo, still cooking (now and then) and selling and renting real estate part time. (Closed my business and joined William Raveis Real Estate.) Since our last reunion, I have been awarded the Entrepreneur Award in 2015 from the Women's Council of Realtors, the Businessperson of the Year from the Somers Chamber of Commerce in 2016, and was the winner of the Peekskill Grand Prix in May 2017, with 52 cars participating. A judge from California interviewed all the drivers about their cars and I was chosen the winner. (One other woman was participating.) I drove my 1955 MG TF 1500. We drove the course 10 times in all through the streets of Peekskill, with people lining the streets and cheering. I just completed my 25th event for the New York/Connecticut MG Car Club, called "Culture in the Country." Every October, I have arranged for our members to meet for cider and freshly baked donuts, and to tour historical places along the Hudson, such as Kykuit, Lyndhurst, Roosevelt Estate, Castle in Millbrook, Salem Horse Farm, Pepsi Sculpture

Garden, Culinary Institute, Millbrook Winery, and Pray Achievements Center and Car Museum.

51 **Correspondent: Mary Beck Barrett,** 23 Gables Dr., Yarmouth, ME 04096, (207) 846-9142, betbecbar@yahoo.com Just a few news items—I'd love to hear from more of you. Hint: Next deadline for news is March 1, 2019. **Mona Gustafson Affinito** is a loyal sharer of her busy life. She enjoyed a spring 2018 cruise to Russia, followed by a summer cruise to the United Kingdom. Mona had also arranged to move to a senior living complex in Excelsior, MN, in the fall. Since her home sold unexpectedly quickly, in July she began her "downsizing frenzy" [Mona's words]. Homeless by Aug. 30, she found generous friends who were willing to let her share their homes until her moving day in December. With a phone call to **Joan Andrew White**, in Mystic, CT, I learned that Joanie had suffered a bad fall but is slowly recovering, and is being encouraged by visits from her two daughters. **Marge Erickson Albertsons**, a travel agent for 20 years, now resides in an independent living facility in Vero Beach, FL. Marge keeps busy by being in charge of house activities, swimming three times weekly and singing in an 80- member group, "Silver Tones," at her church. She also travels to Maine in the summer to a family home in Rockport. **Helen (Johnnie) Johnson Haberstroh** is another very busy classmate. After two years of researching and writing, her 200- page book, *Northminster Presbyterian Church, A History of God's Plan, 1944-2017*, was published. Johnnie is now continuing to engage her artistic talents with a full schedule of house portraits and exhibitions of her work depicting local street scenes, and "loving every minute." Sadly, Johnnie's husband, Dick, passed away in 2017. Our sincere condolences are sent, belatedly. **Barbara (Bobbie) Wiegand Pillote** and husband, Bob, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in late July with family and friends. Retirement living in Rockville, MD, is agreeing with them, as there are lots of perks to living in the Washington, D.C., area, including trips, events and parties. Bobbie and Bob are also enjoying being great-grandparents of Cecelia (2), Simon (6 mos.) and Lucas (3 mos.). **Pat Roth Squire** informed me of the death of **Natalie (Bunny) Bowen** in early 2018 (the obituary was published in the *Boston Globe*). Other losses of our classmates include **Paula Meltzer Nelson** in September 2018, and **Beverly Benenson Gasner** in October 2018. All are sadly missed.

54 **Correspondent: Joanne Williams Hartley,** 69 Chesterton Road, Wellesley, MA 0248, jodihartley69@icloud.com; 781-235-4038; cell: 617-620-9385 Our 65th reunion! Yes, This IS Us! Save the dates, May 31-June 2; we hope to have a nice gathering from our wonderful class of 1954. It is a good time to reach out to friends and invite them to meet you, or just bring along a family member, as we gather to rekindle memories and friendships. At our 60th there were people from the classes of 1934 and 1935, so we will really be youngsters in this setting. I spoke recently with Susan Schaffer



Dr. Elaine Lechtreck '54 returned to campus in October to speak with current students about her book *Southern White Ministers and the Civil Rights Movement*.

Wolff, who, with her husband, moved to a retirement community in North Carolina a year and a half ago, near a son who lives in Raleigh. Her other son lives in Washington state. She said their life is quiet there, yet they travel often to Paris! They purchased a small apartment a dozen or so years ago that is within walking distance of Notre Dame; two or three times a year they go over for a few weeks ... quite a wonderful contrast. **Elizabeth Smith Brobst** is in Lock Haven, PA, and lost her husband, Don, last May. She had been married after her junior year, and many of you will remember Don. They traveled and enjoyed 22 years of retirement; they had the same interests in science, birding and the Audubon Society ... and she has enjoyed chorus and church choir. She has two daughters nearby, one son, and three grandsons. Like many of us, she is still in the home they bought together, in this case, 51 years ago. After raising children for 17 years, she returned to her profession and had a very enjoyable second career teaching science to 7th-11th- graders in a small area school. **Norma Hamady Richards** and her companion, Bill, continue to travel extensively from Washington, D.C.; they hope to go to Berlin and Beirut this spring, then go on to Europe. Her father had emigrated from Beirut, then part of the Ottoman Empire. **Louise Clump Tanner** has been in her home in Plattsburgh, NY, for 50 years. She and her husband have four children and 12 grandchildren, and several "greats"; all are close enough to be a part of their lives and to lend a hand at the family household on occasion. They travel less than they used to, but still go south for a time in the winter; this year they plan to go to New Orleans. In trying to catch up with classmates from California, I reached **Barbara Kent Hensch**; she has lived and raised her family in La Jolla, CA. She also has remained in their home, and lost her husband four years ago. She has a daughter and two sons in the area, plus five grandchildren, four of whom live in La Jolla. She has had no issues with the fires or rain in California in recent months, fortunately. Our "Energizer Bunny," aka **Ann Heagney Weimer**, catches up with **Joyce Tower Sterling** often on Cape Cod, and reports that she is fine. Ann still plays Scrabble in French, works out at the Y three times a week and is the nighttime driver for a group of friends who do not drive at night, so she is popular! The Class of '54 sends deep condolences to the family of our cherished classmate **Nena Cunningham**

Dahling, who had a sudden fatal heart attack in November. Her husband, Bill, predeceased her several years ago; they resided in Grosse Point, MI. Nena was an involved active member of her community and will be sorely missed.

56 Correspondent: Jan Ahlborn Roberts, P.O. Box 221, East Orleans, MA 02643, 508-255-6281, jar.jrr@comcast.net

Joan Gaddy Ahrens, Gail Anthony Clifford and I, Jan Ahlborn Roberts, have "phone chatted" and are near enough to actually visit one another. We have planned a rendezvous near the Cape Cod bridges, as it is a midpoint for Gail and me and is close to Joan. Since her husband, Bob, died, Helen Carey Whitney continues to live as usual in sight of the Puget Sound she loves. She has downsized, but is enjoying some favorite pursuits, such as bridge, wordsmithing and music, and has the good fortune of having all her children and grandchildren within 50 miles! Back from the wilds of "blueberrying" in northern Pennsylvania, Barbara Jenkinson misses her friends from her Portsmouth days, as she has moved nearer to one of her daughters and grandsons. Barbara introduced me to the idea of "grace points"—the unexpected little blessings that life delivers, however, small. Staving off various medical attentions busied Mary Ann Hinsch Meanwell in early 2018, and forced her to cancel her usual travel schedules to see family and friends in New York City, California and elsewhere, but "I am now back to the new normal" is what she reported. She did manage to go on her Michigan family trip to see Chrystal Bridges' America collection, and then was off to Kansas City for more art, including visiting the Truman Museum. "So that is it," she concluded. But no, she left out her trip with her son to New Orleans, where they did everything! I can scarcely compete with that—for me it's the two Westies, controlling the landscape and tending a community garden plot in which my tomatoes, a killer squash, cucumbers and tiny eggplants were variously successful. It picks you up and carries you along ... The class sends sympathy to her husband, Dave, and to the children of Beverly Lawson Watts, who died in late October 2018. According to Koine, Bev could always be recognized "by her big grin of happiness." That smile defined her. In early November, Sally Whittemore Elliott and I attended Bev's memorial service in nearby Chatham, where family and friends spoke warmly of Bev's caring heart as a mother and grandmother and as a super, very significant volunteer in her community.

57 Correspondent: Elaine Diamond Berman, 100 Riverside Blvd., Apt. 20C, New York, NY 10069, elainedberman@comcast.net

Betty Weldon Schneider writes from Minnesota: "It has been a year and a half since Ron died, and I have mastered the art of living alone. It helps having a son living 10 minutes away and a daughter less than three hours away. As a longtime LWV member trying to get the electorate out to vote, I am thrilled with the response this year and with the fact that so many candidates are women. Life continues to be

exciting." Betty's twin, Sandy Weldon Johnson, says, "Downsizing from a large house in Maine, with attached barn and many acres, to smaller quarters is easier said than done, particularly in a 'down' real estate market. Although excess space was glorious for raising three kids, it discouraged efficiency. Now the dilemma of my eighties is making the excess stuff disappear. Oh, for a magic wand!" Mimi Prosswimmer Longyear says that all is going well in Texas "after our usual five summer months in the Berkshire Hills of Massachusetts. Our two grandchildren aren't yet ready for marriage, so we are working our way through the weddings of 21 grandnieces and grandnephews. The latest two were in Maine and Cornwall, England. Our granddaughter, Emily, and grandson, Paul, traveled through Europe for three weeks during the summer before she reported to the American University in Aix en Provence for the fall semester of her junior year at Denison. Paul returned to Texas before moving to Burbank to attend a graduate course in cinematography at the NY Film Academy. We, along with their parents, spent a week in Aix and Paris last fall during Emily's break in classes." We received a note from Connie Stein Higgins saying that she was recovering from a fractured ankle that occurred at the end of August. "In November of 2017, Mel's daughter, Becca, and I took a Crystal Cruise through the Middle East ... from Rome to Dubai, visiting Cyprus, Israel, the Suez Canal, the Wadi Rum Desert, Jordan Oman, and ending up in Dubai. It was absolutely fabulous, and so interesting. I plan to go through the Panama Canal next year. Other than that, I am still working with Derek Bok, editing and researching his new book on curriculum." Enid Siewert Bradley moved from Michigan to Albuquerque 20 years ago. "Lost my husband of 56 years six years ago, but keep pedaling. I have moved to a smaller house with a bigger yard with 27 rosebushes and a view of the mountains. I take frequent long cruises, including a world cruise two years ago. I also travel to visit three children and seven grandchildren. When home, I play my cello in two orchestras." Sarah Greene Burger writes, "My husband, Ed, and I have been residents of Vermont for 50 years. We happily see Ann Henry Crow and Hart a few times a year. I am still a senior adviser at the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing, and continue working to improve nursing homes. During the months spent in our downtown DC condo, we joined and volunteer in the Dupont Circle Village, so that we can age in place as long as possible. We had trips to the Maritimes, welcoming, and London, young and diverse, this summer." Judy Hartt Acker wrote about two evenings she spent on campus in early fall. One was in September, for local class agents to meet with alumni board members and members of the College Advancement staff for dinner during Fall Weekend. Marge Lerner Verrilli was there visiting her grandson, and she joined the group. It was great to see her. In October, I instigated a campus tour for area alums. We all enjoyed seeing the newly remodeled Walter Commons in Blaustein, formerly Palmer Library." Sally

Hargrove Harris says she continues to love her world of Wethersfield, VT. "I seem to be nonstop with graphic design projects for local doings and organizations, and am involved with the historical society and the library. Dick Lukosius was so right when he told me, as I entered the graphic design program at Yale, 'You'll have a portable profession forever.' I am also uplifted by my ongoing singing groups, one a large regional chorus doing world music and another smaller group singing for hospice patients and others in need of 'songs for comfort and healing.'" Sally reported that Nini Cuyler Worman's husband died in September. Condolences from the class, Nini. My freshman roommate, Sue Adam Myers, sadly, lost her twin sister, Hinda, in May. Sue has many health issues, but we enjoy our frequent "visits" by phone. Ellen Smith wrote, "It was such sad news to hear that Toni Garland Marsh passed away in September. Her courage and bravery in light of her brain cancer were amazing. She was such a good friend of mine and we kept in touch through all these years. We even met for lunch last year in Cambridge, MA, with Lisa Green, her daughter. Toni was a tireless fundraiser for Connecticut College as well as a dedicated volunteer in the Williamsburg, VA, community. She was a lover of life, laughter (hers was infectious), the beach, her hometown of Marblehead, MA, and the Boston Red Sox. She frequently visited Massachusetts in the summer, from her home in Williamsburg, to see her family. She was devoted to her four children, their spouses, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She often traveled to visit all of them. Toni's wit, grace and good humor will be deeply missed."

59 Correspondents: Marcia Fortin Sherman, 602 Red Maple Way, Clemson, SC 29631, marciasherman@bellsouth.net, and Carolyn Keefe Oakes, 3333 Warrensville Center Road, Apt 412, Shaker Heights, OH 44122, (216) 752-5384, carolynoakes07@gmail.com Marcia Fortin Sherman and John took a pleasant sail to Martha's Vineyard to visit Connie Snelling McCreery and Max at their home. She writes, "Seafood meals with old friends overlooking the ocean are hard to beat. We enjoyed touring the island a bit, attending the weekly farmers' market, and experiencing the annual Grand Illumination, where thousands of beautiful lanterns are hung on the Campground's gingerbread houses." Joella Werlin is traveling. She reconnected with a boyfriend from Oxford who now lives in Chapel Hill. He arranged all sorts of activities in Paris for her 80th birthday, and then they joined a University of Chicago group on a cruise on the Nile. Otherwise, she is content in her condo in Seattle. Anne Earnshaw Roche writes that she has been hiking and playing tennis and walking to various local shops. She also participates in various study groups. She is part of a Music Live group, where they sing and play different musical instruments. In addition, she plays duets with an American from Hawaii. They have lived in the same house in Auckland for 56 years and is not moving because everything is handy and her daughter lives seven doors

away. **Suzanne Rie Day** has urged relatives and others to attend Conn. She has been married for 14 years to a retired architect. They found a one-level house in a New Jersey village close to Philadelphia. She is considering running for school board. Make your plans to join us at our 60th reunion on campus from May 31 to June 2 and reCONNECT with your college friends. I promise a wonderful time.

60 *Correspondent: Millie Price Nygren, 1048 Bedford St., Fremont, CA 94539, (510) 651-5972, m.nygren@att.net*

To my classmates: I hope 2019 finds you all well and ready to think about our 60th reunion in 2020. A bit of news from our retired columnists ... **Joanie Webster:** Following more than a year of my nomadic lifestyle, I at last was offered a small apartment in the Santa Rosa senior community of my choice in September, with a "move in" date of this Saturday, November 10! I left our mid-coast Maine family home last Friday for my return to California and am spending the week with my daughter, Lee, and her husband, Victor, in Penngrove. My new address is 1401 Fountaingrove Pkwy., Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Less than 48 hours before last year's wildfires destroyed our Napa home of almost 40 years, I took ownership of a long-awaited, 9 1/2-week-old toy poodle puppy who I named Elle. She has been the most adjustable, delightful companion and is loved by all around us, so together, Elle and I will settle in to our new EMPTY home in just a few days with only a bed and a few chairs! **Del Welch:** This has been a hard year for me health-wise. In February, I had a stroke and a mild heart attack. I am still in rehab and hope to move back to my home in Maine this spring. My oldest granddaughter is a senior in high school and is in the process of applying to colleges. It fondly reminds me of our times together at CC. How time goes by! What wonderful memories. **Harriet Brislaw:** My



Marcia Mueller Foresman '63 and husband, Chilly, and Bonnie Campbell Billings '63 and husband, Joe Wauters, in Vero Beach, FL

husband, Jerry, and I still live in our one and only house in Potomac, MD. My husband is retired, but I am still doing my private practice social work about 20 hours a week, and despite my two hip and two knee replacements, I am playing tennis six days a week. My children, who are 50 and 52, live in the area, and our granddaughter is now 7. Because I work for myself, we get to travel a good bit. We were just in Antigua and Hilton Head in the spring and summer, and we are getting ready to go to Grand Cayman. I am planning two ski trips to Deer Valley, UT, and Winter Park, CO, later this winter. Music still continues to play a big part of our lives, as both my children participate in musical events in town. We are getting ready to plan a big 85th birthday party for my husband, and we all will be presenting an hour-long musical show for our guests. **Gareth Griffiths:** After 26 years as the music director at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Schenectady (NY), I am retiring! This December I will produce our 14th Yuletide Revels—a huge medieval celebration of the winter solstice and the holiday season: The event always includes an original Mummer's play, Morris dancers, a brass quartet, choirs, a dragon, a knight and a jester ... and lots of magic and mayhem. My actual last service will be Christmas



Diana Sherman Peacock '63 and Wally Coates Paprocki '63, standing, Gail Martin Reed '63 and Jay Cannon Ruffle '63, seated

Eve. Now I will have more time to volunteer, to spend time in my garden, to travel and to paddle. I am five minutes from the Mohawk River, so I just throw my 12-pound Hornbeck canoe on top of the car and off I go. My son Blaine and his wife live locally, and my son Jeff and his partner are on Long Island—both sons will be at the Yuletide Revels! **Ellen Webster:** We were in New London in June dining in a local restaurant with our grandson and his wife, who work nearby! What a treat that was for several reasons. Then, in September, we visited **Noreen Raymond Frink** and her husband, Fritz, at their weekend/summer home on Whidbey Island in Washington. Since Noreen was at Conn for only two years, many of you might not remember her, but we've been able to see her over the years. **Cynthia Enloe:** I've been up to my usual activities—did a lecture in St. Louis last week and another in Philly this week. Off to the U.K. this Monday (11/12) to do a lecture at the University of Wales. It all keeps me on my toes! **Agnes Gund:** Thanks to Cynn timer, I was able to download the article from *The New York Times* on Nov. 4 and can now include some news on Aggie. She received an award for her achievements in philanthropy. Her achievements and successes include that, in the 1970s, she started Studio in a School, a nonprofit organization that brought art education to public schools all over New York City. In the '90s, she served as president of the Museum of Modern Art. She received the National Medal of the Arts in 1997. It is a wonderful article that you might like to read. Best wishes for the New Year! Remember our 60th reunion is only a year away. I am still looking for help with class news. Millie

63 *Correspondent: Bonnie Campbell Billings, P. O. Box 58, Stowe VT 05672, bsq22@aol.com* Wally Coates Paprocki sent a fun photo of herself and classmates **Diana Sherman Peacock**, **Gail Martin Reed** and **Jay Cannon Ruffle** at their West Coast celebration of our 55th reunion. "The good friends we always were," they enjoyed long walks and delicious meals accompanied by much good conversation! Many of you may have noticed **Martha Joynt Kumar** in the background in a much-played loop of a presidential press conference as an aide tried to wrestle a microphone from CNN's Jim Acosta. Her response to my query about it: "Yes, it is me. I certainly had a front-row seat to history, as I have these many years. I have survived by doing

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Left to right: Wilma Cohen Probst Levy, Danielle Dana Strickman, and Betsy Greenberg Feinberg (all Class of '66) in Washington, D.C., in November 2018

what I am doing here: keeping my head down." My husband, Joe, and I spent a wonderful three weeks in Vero Beach this fall, playing much golf, tennis and duplicate bridge, as well as catching up with two classmates. Joe and I had lunch with Marcia Mueller Foresman and her husband, Chilly, who have spent winters in Vero for nearly 20 years. Marcia continues to play the piano and be involved in local musical events ... perhaps reminiscent of our Junior Show? Marcia is also an avid bridge player. Aggie Cochran Underwood and I had a fun lunch with a class of 1967 alum, Faith Jackson Parker, both Vero residents. Aggie is still active professionally at Carney, Sandoe, where she is managing associate of its Search & Consulting Group. Pat Said Adams wrote that she blogs about spiritual life at bythewaters.net and invites classmates to participate. She published her second book, *Exodus: Our Story Too! From Slavery to the World to the Kingdom of God*, in 2017. She lives in Charlotte, NC, where she enjoys five grandchildren, plus two little ones in California. After receiving her excellent letter to our class, I got in touch with Carolyn Boyan Raymond. She plans to stay home in Westport, CT, "with a few trips to Arizona, where my son Greg and his family live. May do some remodeling if I can get my act together. I don't mind the winter, but don't like ice anymore. Had a nice long talk with Roberta (Slone Smith) Thanksgiving morning. I was a little gloomy and was glad she called. We laughed about old Burnham School pranks ..." She hoped that Linda Osborn would be coming East over Christmas. Old friends are the best!" The class extends sympathies to the family of Ginny Olds Goshdigan, who passed away in May. As well, we note the loss to her close group of classmates who got together frequently over these many years.

66 *Correspondents: Carol Chaykin and Pat Dale; ccnotes66@gmail.com* Danielle Dana Strickman had a visit with Nanci Anton Bobrow in Chicago in October. Danielle also saw Andrea Ansell Bien in Florida, where they celebrated their birthdays together. In November, Danielle was in Washington, D.C., where she had lunch with Wilma Cohen Probst Levy, Danielle Dana Strickman, Betsy Greenberg Feinberg, and Danielle's cousin, Carol Silverman Lieberman '67. In the wake of the Pittsburgh shooting at The Tree of Life Synagogue, Ellen Kagan attended vigils on the Falmouth Village Green and at the Cape Cod



Lisa Altman Pintzuk '66, Iva Obst Turner '66, Bernice Abramowitz Shor '66, Kathy Legg '66, Ann Kiley '66, Susan Rothschild '66, Mardi Walker '66 in Baltimore, Maryland, in April 2018.

Synagogue, and continues to work "against hate for Jews and anyone else in our beautiful country." Iva Obst Turner hosted a mini reunion in April at her home in Baltimore, MD. Susan Rothschild, Ann Kiley, Kathy Legg, Lisa Altman Pintzuk, Bernice Abramowitz Shor, Mardi Walker and Carol Lewis Mehlenbeck (by Skype) all agreed that they look exactly the same as they did 52 years ago! The weekend was spent sharing memories, eating crab cakes, looking at pictures and reliving Conn years together. They hope to meet again soon, perhaps in Sarasota, FL, where Bernice has decided to move—forsaking her longtime home in New Jersey. Roxcy Platte has closed her psychotherapy practice, and now she can spend a longer season in the sun at her winter home in Venice, FL, where she teaches plein air drawing and painting. She also tries to play tennis several times a week. Roxcy and David enjoy traveling; they went to the south of France last year (where Roxcy painted), and they plan to go to Ireland this summer. They also make annual jaunts to Maine and Vermont. Roxcy's older son, Tucker, has a 3-year-old daughter, and her younger son, Eben, has a 5-year-old daughter. Roxcy would love to hear from any classmates who live either in Massachusetts (near Ipswich) or along the Gulf Coast of Florida. Betsey Staples Harding and her husband, Sam, toured parts of Kamchatka, in Siberia, along the coast of the Bering Sea. Favorite sights included fall foliage (four inches high in the tundra), grizzly bears (at a good distance), Steller's sea eagles, albatrosses, volcanoes, geysers, several types of whales, seals and sea lions. We mourn the loss of Anne Wood Birgbauer (10/25/18), and we send our sympathies to her husband, Bruce Birgbauer, and their four children. We also extend sincere condolences to Betsy Dawe Piebenga on the loss of her husband, Larry Piebenga (2/10/18). Please continue sending your news to ccnotes66@gmail.com. We love hearing from you! —Carol Chaykin and Pat Dale

67 *Debby Greenstein, debby837@verizon.net, and Marcia Hunter Matthews, marciamatthews3@gmail.com* Jackie King Donnelly and husband, Patrick, continue to enjoy life in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, when they are not on the road visiting family in Portland, OR (three grandchildren) and Chicago (one grandson). They recently crossed the North Atlantic on a cruise of the Shetland Islands, Iceland and Greenland, dodging a few icebergs. They are planning a trip to Lebanon, Israel and Egypt in 2019. Jackie would love to welcome classmates when they are in San Miguel. She is still living off the memories of reunion and looking forward to the next. Jackie sends best wishes to the class of '67! Wendy Wilson Allen sends her greetings as well. She and husband, Rich, led a two-week adult study/travel program to Bordeaux and the Dordogne in late September. Wendy reports gorgeous weather, a great group of people, a wonderful guide and wine to die for! Their next adventure was mid-November, when they took their family to French Polynesia for two weeks. Debby Greenstein is a longtime volunteer at Food & Friends, a nonprofit organization that provides free, home-delivered meals to people with life-threatening illnesses. She had a big surprise at a recent fundraising event when she and a friend found themselves on a framed poster on the wall. Debby and her friend Marlene Hoffman appear with one of the staff from the organization. Debby had a visit from Ethel Bottcher Cullinan, and they had dinner with their old friend Jim Schlotfeldt. Judy Anderson Miller wrote about a mini reunion with Patty Chock Chainon '68, fresh from her 50th reunion in June. Class of '67 friends Suzanne Rossell Boyer, Susan Galves Lapointe, Judy Anderson Miller, Judy Foldes Dickson, Judy's husband, Don Dickson, and Patty gathered at Sarma in Somerville, MA, to celebrate Patty's visit from Paris. Judy reports that Patty enjoyed her 50th reunion as much as we did ours, which prompted Judy to send thanks to everyone who made ours happen!



Marjory Dressler '67 with Artist Chuck Close in Miami.



From the class of '67 Laura Waxman DeKoven and Marilyn Silton Khoury in front, with Debby Greenstein, Wendy Thompson Noyes, Pat McMurray and Judy Betar Metro in the back.



Ethel Bottcher Cullinan, Debby Greenstein and Jim Schlotfelt



Left to right: Wilma Cohen Probst Levy, Danielle Dana Strickman, and Betsy Greenberg Feinberg (all Class of '66) in Washington, D.C., in November 2018



Judy Macurda Oates '67 and Marcia Hunter Matthews '67



Phyllis Beighley '68

Jane Gullong and Marjory Dressler had lunch in Miami with Debby Greenstein. They were so busy catching up that no photo was taken, so Marjory provided one of herself and Jane playing tourist on an evening cruise in Miami. Jane's big news is her new book, *Dancing at the Castle*, a memoir of her childhood on the shore of Long Island Sound. The book celebrates family life, boating and deep connection to place, particularly Old Saybrook, with its colonial history, beautiful beach communities and abundant water views. You can find it on Amazon. Marjory, a Realtor in Miami, also sent a photo of herself with artist Chuck Close. He bought his Florida apartment from her and has become a good friend. They are seen in one of her listings, which is being sold along with three of his paintings currently on the walls. One appears behind them. Marcia Hunter Matthews says that one of the best things that has happened this year is reconnecting with Debbie Swanson Handy and Pat McClure, old friends from Conn. Debbie and Marcia went to their 55th Walnut Hill reunion in May, and Debbie went to Kennebunkport for lunch and a long walk in June. Pat has moved to Marcia's neighborhood in Venice, FL, and it is a joy to have her nearby. They have even started playing bridge together again! Judi Rosman Hahn and Nancy Blumberg Austin came to Kennebunkport this summer with their husbands for a few days. It was wonderful to be together with old friends who met 55 years ago in Jane Addams. Marcia also spent a fun day with Judy Macurda Oates and her husband, Jimmy, at their new home in Sarasota, FL. Marcia and husband, Bill, continue to enjoy retirement and their nine grandchildren. The two oldest grandchildren are 16 and are interested in going to Connecticut College! Wow! Jennifer Andrews is still living in Sisters, OR, with her husband, Ed. She is starting a unique new community volunteer activity. Jennifer and her 3-year-old long-coated, pure-bred German shepherd, Axel vom Schlossfelsen, a beautiful and sweet dog who loves all people and other animals, just passed their tests to become a licensed therapy dog team. Early in 2019, they will begin visiting people in hospitals and children in schools, providing attention and affection. Jennifer and Axel can't wait to begin, and they encourage other pet owners to think about becoming pet therapy teams. It's rewarding and great fun! Ashley Hibbard sends greetings from what she describes as (mostly) sunny Arizona. She has been there for seven years now, and has mostly gotten used to the summer heat, although she usually plans any trips for July and August. She fully enjoys retirement, but keeps busy with lifelong learning classes, volunteering at a local food bank, and this past summer, doing voter registration and canvassing for political candidates, things that she never seemed to have time for when working. Ashley reports that getting older isn't fun—she went for 70 years without having a broken bone in her body, but in the past two years she has broken bones in both feet—and then one of the nurses said that a medicine she has been taking for three to four years is known to cause brittle bones. She is now back to exercising at the gym almost every day—

another thing she didn't have much time for when working. Living in a retirement community has many advantages. Terry Taffinder Grosvenor wrote to say that she and husband, Rick, went to Cuba in October as part of a People-to-People Program. They stayed in Veradero near Matanzas, Havana, and Viñales in the Pinar Del Rio region, with many excursions to galleries, schools, organic farms and Hemingway's home, and walking tours of the cities. Their guides were super. Terry has been compiling research about her great-great-grandfather—one of the first American painters in Cuba in the 1850s. "This trip expanded my knowledge of the Cuban terrain, architecture and culture and was great fun." Terry and Rick celebrated an action-packed Thanksgiving with their children and grandchild. Then, she said, it was time to head back to reality! She sends greetings to all. The class of 1967 sends sympathy to the family and friends of Mickey Blum, who died November 2018. Mickey will be missed by, among others, her husband, Michael Jaker, two children and four grandchildren. She had a distinguished career in political research and was the director of Baruch College Survey Research.

68 Correspondent: Mary Clarkson Phillips, 36 The Crossway, Delmar, NY 12054, mphill2@nycap.rr.com Phyllis Beighley writes: "Our sweet girl arrived a little early on Nov. 20 at 7:01 a.m., and we are just so in love! Mary Parker Dinkins—5 lbs., 6 oz. and 18.25 in.

69 Judi Bamberg Mariggiò, 1070 Sugar Sands Blvd. #384, Riviera Beach, FL 33404 jgmariggiò@bellsouth.net Our 50th reunion is on the horizon! Be sure to clear your calendar for the festivities that begin on Thursday evening, May 30, and continue into Sunday, June 1. Expect mail, emails and calls as the date nears, and be sure to contact me about joining our private group if you are on Facebook. Don't hesitate to reach out to someone you'd like to see again, even "after all these years"—we are Class of 1969 and our bonds are strong! In June, Susan Cannon and her friend Rick Smith joined her brothers, Mark and Matthew, and sister-in-law, Peggy, on a "Le Boat" rental and traveled through the Rideau Canal and lakes in eastern Ontario. "Due to Captain Mark's expert guidance, we did not land on any rocks or have any other misadventures as some other renters we met did. We got very familiar with locks and how to manage them on the boat." They followed up with a two-week trip to Maine in October. Babette Gabriel Thompson still enjoys living in the beautiful Pacific Northwest, "though our peace is often shattered by the Navy flying 'unmuffled' planes over our home at low altitudes that actually shatter glass. Needless to say that for the past few years, fighting to get our peaceful lives back occupies a lot of our time. On a more positive note, our son, widowed in 2012, remarried last year, and is well and happy. Anna Marie Booth '68 attended the wedding in Temecula, CA. Otherwise, life is occupied by gardening, book club, volunteering and travel."



Leadership Donors Recognized at 1911 Society Event

While celebrating the inaugural Ad Astra Society induction ceremony, Connecticut College also held its fifth annual 1911 Leadership Giving Society Reception on Oct. 25, 2018, at the Midtown Loft & Terrace, in New York City. Members of the 1911 Society are a distinguished part of the Connecticut College community; their leadership gifts represent more than 80 percent of Conn's annual fund dollars, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to academic excellence and to making a difference in the lives of our students.

The evening included brief remarks by President Bergeron,

who shared exciting news from the College over the past year, and who acknowledged the group's critical role in ensuring Conn's continued success, saying, "Thank you for your love and loyalty to this very special college. And thank you for helping us become the very best we can be."

The 1911 Society has approximately 650 members. Karen Christofano DiGravio '91 and Vic DiGravio '88, Ellie Leahy '13 and Grace Astrove '10 are the volunteer chairs of the Society. If you are interested in finding out more about joining the 1911 Society, please contact Brittany Richard, interim director of annual giving at brichar2@conncoll.edu.



Alexa Lynch '04 and Ethan Powell '04



Remarks by President Bergeron



Mariko Moher (staff), Grace Astrove '10 and Janil Tejada '15



Neil Janovic, Tamah Nachtman Wiegand '68, Susan Feigl O'Donnell '68 and Lawrence O'Donnell



John Zeiler '74, Ken Kabel '76 and Ivan Tatis '10



Paige Cottingham-Streater '83



Jennifer Schwartz and husband Donald Crouch '77



Grace Astrove '10, Julia Harnett Lenzi '10, Harris Rosenheim '09



Brittany Fitzgerald '13 and Ellie Leahy '13



Calling All Reunion Classes!

Last year the 3's and 8's came back to campus with a bang! Nearly 700 alumni returned to campus to celebrate their Reunion. In total, the classes raised over \$2.7 million to support our programs and students! What amazing heights will the 4's and 9's reach?

Give back today by going to: giving.conncoll.edu.
Reunion registration opens in March.

Penny Goslin Baker is a grandmother! "My son Jamie and his wife, Tal, had a son, Sam, born on March 8, 2018. I'm thrilled with my new grandma role and spending as much time with him as I can! I'm still working but hoping to retire in the new year. Of course I said that five years ago at our last reunion! Looking forward to our 50th!" Ellen Lougee Simmons will travel to reunion from Maine with Alice Reid Abbott. For now, Ellen is "still in Houston with two daughters here, one in Boulder, CO, and two in San Francisco. Family also includes four sons-in-law, six grandchildren and two grandchildren on the way! I hope all our classmates who are able to attend our 50th reunion will come! What fun it will be to see everyone." Evelyn Marienberg retired as assistant professor at Northwell Health in July. "I am still as busy as ever, and am covering various radiation oncology practices on a per diem basis." After Rita ("Sunny") Miller retired in September as a judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, they enjoyed a trip to Venice, Italy, together. Sunny is now working as a mediator and arbitrator. Evy and Sunny look forward to attending reunion together. Jane Rafal Wilson's attendance at reunion will be "my first time on campus in 40 years. My husband and I traveled to Spain for 2 1/2 weeks in October. To prepare,

I spent nine months learning Spanish. I managed to understand a little there, but fortunately Ralph is fluent. Now I've begun learning French for our next trip, and—big surprise—it's easier when you spent four years learning the language in high school and college! I've also been playing clarinet for almost two years, and I hope to start playing in a group in Charlottesville." When "dog-sitting" for her daughter brought Alice Reid Abbott to the Seattle area in early September, Sharon Smith Broughton hosted a mini-reunion lunch for some of the other locals. Per Alice Boatwright, "We gathered from various parts of the Puget Sound/Seattle area: Babette Gabriel Thompson and her husband, John; Alice Reid Abbott; Sharon and her husband, Gary; and I. Unfortunately, Jackie Follett was unable to attend. We enjoyed the exquisite autumn weather and a lot of catching up and reminiscing." As we look forward to gathering together for our 50th reunion, we are saddened to note the passing of our classmates Cynthia Osborne (4/18), Jane Reisman Weiskopf (9/30/18) and Ellen Aronoff Kent (10/10/18). We send heartfelt condolences to their families and friends. While in New York from Los Angeles to attend a judges conference in March, Rita "Sunny" Miller enjoyed dinner and a visit to the Whitney Museum with Evelyn Marienberg. Over Columbus Day weekend, five '69 classmates and freshman dorm-mates in Katherine Blunt gathered at Hannah Leavitt and husband Jack Krill's home in Ogunquit, ME. "We discussed plans for our rapidly approaching 50th reunion, and raised a toast to Ruth's freshman roommate, Ginny Harvey, who died last January of cancer." Pictured L to R: Linda Platts, Mark Mueller, Liz Tobin Mueller, Jack Krill, Hannah Leavitt, Tom Rorick, Marilyn West Rorick, Ruth Kunstadt Culp and Bill Culp.



Rachel Sherbourne Cooney '70 and Cynthia Howard Harvell '70 had a mini-reunion on Lake Sunapee in August with Louie the labradoodle and Cynthia's husband Michael Harvell.

70 *Correspondent: Myrna Chandler Goldstein, mgoldst@massmed.org*
Donna Rosen, who has been living in the same Washington, D.C., home since 1982, reports that she has been renovating. She hopes to sell the home in four to five years and move to an apartment or CCRC. She maintains an active lifestyle with yoga and exercise at the gym. Travel remains a high priority. She took a food and wine tour in northern Spain in September 2017, and she traveled to Southeast Asia in February 2018. In November 2018, she went on another food and wine tour in Chile and Argentina. She skis at least once a year. She was skiing in Park City, UT, in March 2018, and will be in Italy in March 2019. Karen Kuskis-Smith wrote that she and her close Conn friends Debbie Foster Ebeling, Hether Clash Macfarlane, Molly Hall Prokop, and Jane Branigan Occhiogrosso visited Sante Fe last June with their husbands to celebrate their 70th birthdays. "Of course, Susie Lee is always with us!" Russ Josephson, who spent the entire 1969-1970 academic year at Conn, wrote that he and his wife, Vera, celebrated their 31st anniversary last July. Russ has been teaching in Hawaii since November 2009, and he and Vera have been building a home. "The house will be small but comfortable, situated in nearly unsettled Kalihiwai Valley with its own electrical, water and waste systems. We have a river close by if we want to kayak to Kalihiwai Bay, and we have a nice view of Kalihiwai Falls, as long as I keep cutting trees, brush and grass in the viewplane." Russ is seriously pursuing his photography "hobby/habit," and he enjoys riding in the Kauai Jeep Club.

71 *Lisa McDonnell, 134 W Maple Street, Granville, OH 43023, mcdonnell@denison.edu, Lois Olcott Price, 933A Alto Street, Santa Fe, NM 87501, loprice@yahoo.com*
Suzy Johnson has been busy during the recent election season. She's the president of her local League of Women voters, which has been very active in voter registration drives and candidate debates. She's also the vice chair of her local Planned Parenthood affiliate, which spans the entire northern part of New York state. Since Congress has been trying to stop funding their important health care initiatives, Suzy and her colleagues have been searching for new ways to expand their services and discover new funding sources. Northern New York is predominantly rural, and PP serves as the primary health care provider for many of its residents. On the home front, one of Suzy's granddaughters has appeared in commercials, on stage and on TV. She played Marta in the Broadway National Equity Tour of *The Sound of Music*, she's currently appearing as Susan Waverly in the Broadway National Equity Tour of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* and she's also a featured character in *The Trolls* on Netflix. Another granddaughter is a field hockey player whose school team, Charlotte Latin, won the North Carolina state championship this fall. She's currently visiting colleges, and Suzy's encouraging her to look at Conn. Betsy Collier Little has been traveling A LOT! In 2017, she and husband, Jim, headed to Iceland in January;

Budapest, Vienna, Prague, Dresden and Berlin in April; and Santiago, Easter Island and Patagonia in November. In 2018, it was South Africa and a cruise to the Seychelles in January; Japan in May; Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki and Tallinn in September; and Spain and Portugal in November. Plans for 2019 include the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu and an Alaskan cruise. Betsy and Jim stay in boutique central city hotels and dine on the local cuisine, and use local transportation and put in miles of walking to really see the countries. Betsy says anyone wanting recommendations should email questions; she'd be happy to help. Susan (Susu) Schmidt lives on high ground in Beaufort, NC, and suffered minimal damage to her boat shed during the September hurricane. Her new book of poetry, *Let Go or Hold Fast: Beaufort Poems*, features a Hurricane Florence poem about helping neighbors recover and avoiding flood waters laced with hog-lagoon waste and coal ash. Susu is still working on her popular science Gulf Stream book about sailing, sea level rise, and impacts of ocean current changes on global warming. In the past 10 years, as fun research, she has walked Celtic coastal paths warmed by the Gulf Stream in Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Guernsey, Brittany and Galicia, with trips last year to Iceland and Belize. Susu works as a developmental editor, revising books for publication, and is listed among the Top Ten Editors in New England. Sarah Meltzoff is still teaching at the University of Miami's marine school in Marine Ecosystems and Society. This includes doing ethnographic fieldwork every year in Burma on folk Buddhism, and in the Solomon Islands, where she first went as a Watson Fellow right after graduation from Conn. Sarah is the cultural bridge between the Solomons' last dolphin hunting village—her friends since 1973—and the Ric O'Barry Dolphin Project, an NGO that is promising to compensate the villagers with 20 years of grassroots education



Ellen Goodman Sibre '71

and social projects in return for their becoming the dolphins' protectors. Bonnie Shepherd Yocum and husband, Dave, retired at the beginning of 2018. They are still getting used to retirement life, but their five grandchildren between the ages of one and six are keeping them busy. Their son and his family live in Philadelphia, and their daughter and her family live in Lancaster, close enough that Bonnie and Dave do a lot of babysitting! Ellen Goodman Sibre wonders, "How do I summarize 47 years since graduation in a few sentences?" She married her Coastie, Charles, in '72, and the Coast Guard moved them around to some "terrible" duty stations, such as Miami, NYC, Monterey and Honolulu, while she worked as a research biologist until the births of son Brendan in '79 and daughter Kelly in '81. When Charles retired, the family stayed in northern Virginia. The kids attended the College of William and Mary, and Kelly went to medical school. They have done quite a bit of traveling within CONUS, Europe, the British Isles, New Zealand and Australia and, most recently and excitingly, went on safari in Botswana and South Africa in May.

72 Correspondent: Peg Muschell Jackson, 1966 Tice Valley Boulevard, Apt 107, Walnut Creek, CA 94595, peg@pegjackson.com Doreen Chen Allen and her hubby, Charley, have published their first book under their new imprint, "Sagest." *The Avian Ambassadors of the Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary* is the first in a series of books on sanctuaries and endangered animals. The second is on wild horses (spring 2019). Sagest's tagline is *Bespoke Books*, and its goal is to publish socially impactful books. They are also working on a biography called *Glen Dawson: Mountaineer and Bookman* (Feb. 2019), an important 1900s figure in the Sierra Club and the book collectors and publishing worlds. Harkening back to Doreen's Conn College major in physics and astronomy, they are also seeking to do a family-focused science series of books. They continue to produce beautiful award-winning books for museums, publishers, historians, artists, etc.—more than 130 books in the past 13 years. They are especially proud of the 16 books produced for the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens; the five editions (30,000 books) of *The Kinsey African American Art & History Collections*; the centennial celebration books for the California cities of San Marino, Sierra Madre and Culver City; and many more interesting titles. Crindy Stormer reports that she and three classmates get together every two years for a "Romp." This past September they got together for a fun long weekend in Kennebunk, ME. As always, they had a grand time! The Romp group members are Reggie Anderson O'Brien, Roxane Landers Althouse, Nancy Lane Carey and Crindy Leahy Stormer. They treasure their College friendships. Crindy says that when they have the next Romp in two years, they will be celebrating their 70th birthdays! Yikes! Margo (Reynolds) Steiner reports that she has been teaching a memoir-writing class at Marblehead's Council on Aging. Most participants have



Hester Kinnicut Jacobs '73 and husband David in Australia

eschewed her suggestions for writing personal essays about the family's first car, a favorite teacher or their best Christmas/Hanukkah gift, and have chosen instead to write about dark areas of their youth, to include violence, a murder and sexual abuse. Although not what Margo expected, it has proven highly cathartic for participants who have never previously voiced these subjects. Ironically, the group has grown from an original seven to a maximum of 12. Peg Jackson and her husband, Paul, are spending the holidays at their home in Honolulu. The location has proven to be useful on several levels: Peg gets in her beach time on Waikiki and Paul has a more strategic location for travel to his business assignments in Guam and Singapore.

73 Correspondent: Hester Kinnicut Jacobs, P.O. Box 277, Melstone, MT 59054, djacobs@midrivers.com Hester Kinnicut Jacobs writes: "I am writing the class notes from Dunedin, New Zealand. My husband, David, and I are spending the winter "down under" with our son Chris. He and his wife work for the University of Otago and have three children, 14, 12 and 10. We have not seen these grandchildren for three years and are having a great time. We are in a one-bedroom apartment at the university and have become certified house sitters, and will be doing some house sits out on the Otago Peninsula, a beautiful place. We arrived in Dunedin from 2 1/2 weeks in Australia, traveling from Rottnest Island of Perth and the cute Quokkas to Kangaroo Island off of Adelaide, Tasmania, Melbourne and Sydney. The attached picture is at the Sydney Opera House. A whirlwind tour, but it gave us a good flavor for the country. We arrived in Dunedin in time to celebrate a Thanksgiving meal with our son. Wishing you all the merriest of holiday seasons and a great new year. You can send news to me any time."

74 ^R Ann Pasquier writes: "My husband and I packed up 40+ years of Connecticut accumulation and moved permanently to our Florida home in Nokomis. We enjoy the wonderful cultural amenities of Sarasota and Venice, and love that so many outdoor activities can take place all year long. My husband, Bernard, enjoys the Venice Orchid Society and is now up to 70 orchids on the lanai, and I am an active member of the Coastal Calligraphers Guild in Sarasota. Biking, tai chi and walks on the beach and at the many lovely parks help to keep those joints moving."



Sam Tabet '10 married Milo Chesnut in May, 2017.



Katrina Quick Reid '10 married Brody Reid on July 7, 2018; camels in attendance included Kevin Kovach '10, Kacie Quick '13, Chris Muscatello '10, Janneke Quick Sobock '08, and Erin Osborn '10



Zuleika Muñoz Johnson '10 was married on September 7, 2017 in Las Vegas with a few Conn College friends in attendance: Claribel Marmol '10, Pedro Paredes '10, Yvonne Mosley '11, Tremana White '11, Jennifer Tejada '10, Alie Ramos '09, Chris Mosley '08, Joshua Batts '08, Aidyn Ureña '10, Marisa Imazu '10, and Zarrette Rogers '07.



Stephanie Banim '10 married Tyler Pruce on April 27th, 2018 at the Brooklyn Winery. Classmates in attendance included Elizabeth Ernstoff '10, Skye Ross '10, Annie Gemmer Bowe '10, Rebecca McIntosh Van der Vlugt '10, Emmet Markin '10, Sara Carhart '10, Stephanie Banim '10, Johanna Gregory '10, Alexander Dana '10, Tiffany Ayala '10, and Oscar Guerra '11.



Jeff Beling married Ali Grzywna on August 4, 2018. Camels in attendance: Douglas Wright '12, Dan Post '12, Colin Gallant '12, Amy Gallant '12, Hoitt McAllister '12, Matthew Gitkind '13, Matthew Boudreau '13, Andrew Duarte, MD '13, Tristan Cole '13, Pat Myers '13, Blake Reilly '14, Billy Martinsky '13.



Asa Welty '13 married Madeline Loughridge in Annisquam, Mass., on June 23, 2018. Camels in attendance (L-R): Tim Swan '13, Emily Loewus '15, Jourdan Perez '12, Streeter Nelson '84, Allison Kipke '13, Jillian Sandler '13, Justin Shamash '13, bride Madeline Welty, Caleb Garza '13, groom Asa Welty '13, Alex Marz '13, groom's grandfather and former Conn professor John Curtis Perry, Ben Stepansky '12, groom's mother Rachel Perry '84, Cathy Leeming Andersen '84 and Leslie Leeming Flynn '84.



Gaia Merriman '10 married her best friend and girlfriend Devin DiGiovanni on November 3, 2018.



Vicky Wade '15 and Kevin Kelly '14 were married September 1, 2018. Many, many camels were in attendance!



Richie Glanz '77, Andrew Rawson '78, Steve Cohan '78 and Mark Warren '75 all met at Richie's house in Narragansett, RI in late September for cycling, great food and fun. Also in attendance were Scott Carney '77 and Andy Chintz '77.

76 *Correspondents: Kenneth Abel, 412 Midland Avenue, Rye, NY 10580, kenn616@aol.com; Susan Haslehurst Milbrath, PO Box 3962, Greenwood Village, CO 80155-3962, shmilbrath@gmail.com* The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker is in her third year serving as rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Compass, PA. Her husband, Richard Hacker, is the church's organist/choir director. Nina and Rick live with their three cats in the midst of a 190-acre forest at the Cornwall Manor Retirement Community near Lancaster, PA, and she keeps in touch with alumnae Donna Diamond, Cynthia Comstock and Ken Abel.

78 *Correspondents: Laurie Heiss, PO Box 540, Redding Ridge CT 06876, laurieheiss@gmail.com, and Sue Greenberg Gold, 40 Clinton Street, Apt PHA, Brooklyn, NY 11201, sgold51@yahoo.com* Jim Diskant reports that he retired in June from a satisfying career as a high school history teacher in Boston. He then embarked on a vacation that resulted in his moving to Berlin, Germany, to join his now-husband, Gerd. He's been enjoying this exciting time of life, despite some stress, and is happily resettled in Berlin with its new culture and adventures. Tom Kadzis got together with Jim Glick ('78) and Jay Faber ('79) several times over the summer for golf and laughs. Glick, Kadzis, and the Fiskios (Mark '79 and Gail Finnerty '78) keep up with Jay Faber and his band, Bitter Magnolia. They're also in touch with "Biff and Happy" (aka Tracey Masters and Mike Duggan, from the college paper byline) for commentary on sports and current events. Susan Tobiason continues to gain strength in recovery from colon cancer and is looking forward to trips to South Carolina and Virginia for the holidays. Steve Certilman has joined the arbitration and mediation panels of the

International Centre for Dispute Resolution, an arm of the American Arbitration Association. He has spent 30 years in ADR and hears cases drawn from AAA's large complex case panel, its technology panel, its mergers and acquisitions panel, and its employment panel. This satisfying work keeps him busy! Nancy Heaton and Jeff Lonstein have been joyfully married for 44 years now, and welcomed granddaughter No. 1 in May of 2018. Nancy segued from executive coaching and marketing to reiki and end-of-life hospice care, and loves supporting people from this new perspective. Elizabeth Ashforth Bacon shares

that she and Ned look back so fondly on their college days, and two of their children and their son-in-law are all graduates of Conn. She has spent her career as an educational entrepreneur, building civics programs in Worcester, MA. She now serves as the community coordinator for the Clemente Course in the Humanities, now in its fifth year in Worcester, and she founded and directs a 10-years-running summer program called the Blackstone Canal Horse and Wagon Tours. Lue Douthit is leaving the Oregon Shakespeare Festival after 25 seasons in order to work on a project called "Play On!" in which 36 playwrights translate Shakespeare from Elizabethan English to contemporary modern English. The Play On! Festival of readings will run from May 29 to June 30, hosted by Classic Stage in NYC. Impressive! Julie Kalt Gale and Peter Gale just celebrated their 39th anniversary! They live at the crossroads of the Hudson Valley and the Berkshires in beautiful Columbia County, NY, where Peter owns a realty business and Julie owns a cooking school called At the Kitchen Table. They've got four grown children: Adam (36), Zachary (33), Toby (30) and Elizabeth (22), and enjoy travel, gardening, canoeing, biking and cross-country skiing. Carolyn Frzop reports that while home for Thanksgiving break, her daughter Olivia, who is a junior at Butler University, drove up to Conn to watch two former teammates from the Kent School now compete as members of the Camels women's varsity hockey team. And Conn won! When not jet-setting from Paris to Beirut, Maria Sweitzer is happy to lend her name to well-deserved philanthropic initiatives. Maria still enjoys skiing and competitive tennis. She had hoped to attend our 40th reunion, but a family get-together in Italy was the same week. Ciao, bella!



Mark Your Calendars for Founders Day 2019

Get ready to celebrate Founders Day on **APRIL 5** and participate in our week-long campaign starting **MARCH 29**.

We'll be asking you to give back and share what you found at Conn. **DETAILS COMING SOON!**



A small reunion in recognition of 40th graduation anniversaries past, present and future was held last June in Kennebunkport, Maine. CC alums in attendance were Peter Thorsen '80, Evan Stone '79, Andrew (Big Boy) Rodwin '79, David Rittenhouse '78, Jon Perry '78, Marge Kaufman Stone '79, Tony Bowe '79, Peter Stoops '79, Tom Roosevelt '78 and Jim Polan '79. Not pictured, but also in attendance: Gibb Taylor '80.

81 *Correspondent: Brooke Pardue, bppardue@gmail.com* In late September, five Camels joined Brooke Perry Pardue in Louisville for the first annual C3 (Core Camels Corps) gathering supporting the Louisville Parks Foundation (LPF), where Brooke is the president/CEO. Nancy Lundebjerg, Paul Escoll, Rick Gersten, Susan Spilman Mc Nerney and Talie Ward Harris spent three days learning about Louisville's 120+ public parks and LPF's largest fundraiser, the Jack O'Lantern Spectacular; enjoying David Byrne and Kenny Kravitz in the rain and mud at Bourbon & Beyond; and touring the Maker's Mark distillery. Check out the class Facebook page for news of our next C3 fun philanthropic initiative designed to support a new Camel-connected nonprofit with old col-

lege pals. Speaking of old College pals, Duncan Dayton and his wife, Renae (expecting their first child in late February!), joined Talie Ward Harris at the Eric Clapton concert in NYC in October. And she's just started a painting class with Connie Smith Gemmer '80. They are both ready to retire and move to Provence. Rusty Spears says life in the "Northern Neck" is good. He was just elected vice president of agency services at Northern Neck Insurance Co. In April, he was able to visit his daughter in Tajikistan, his first time to a former Soviet republic since 1981, when he studied in Moscow after graduation. He sees Karen Bachelder '83 frequently, and they continue to go to Saratoga, NY, for a race or two in the summer. Rusty and his wife have also been caring for his wife's 46-year-old Down syndrome

sister after the death of their parents. It took about 10 months to enroll her in the Virginia Medicaid system and find a suitable place for her to live. She had lived with her mother all her life, with no chance to become independent. Starting in January 2019, Scott Hefter and his wife, Anne, are going back to school, as they were accepted as Harvard Fellows in the Advanced Leadership Initiative program. They are moving to Cambridge and have an apartment across the street from fellow Camel David Zieff. Narragansett was a big gathering place this year, with Scott Hefter, Kevin Sullivan, Norm Livingston, Rick Gersten and David Geller converging to see Scott's son play quarterback for William and Mary at the University of Rhode Island. Suz Cole Ross is having a happy, happy year. Her nonprofit, Northeast Association of Learning Specialists, is celebrating its 20th anniversary, and she invites classmates to donate at NEAL-Online.org. Her son Matt and his wife, Michelle, had a baby named Cole in July, and her son Tim is going to marry Sinead! Mindy Kerman Gellerman continues to work in early childhood special education and oversees the integrated preschools at the Association to Benefit Children. In addition, she serves as a special education advocate for the organization, often challenging the NYC DOE to place children with mental health issues in schools that can meet their needs. Mindy traveled to Kenya for two weeks in July with the nonprofit group Move to Empower to work with underserved school children in the slums of Nairobi, which she says was "a life-changing experience." She and her husband, Ken, visit daughters Carly (28), a physical therapist, in Denver, and Liza (22), in Atlanta at Emory University, as often as possible. Dana Friedman Kiesel writes that Paul Escoll, Michael Tulin '77, Jeff Oshen '76 and Paul Kiesel '82 all enjoyed dinner together at their annual mutual October birthday dinner in LA. They all survived the fires, love to get together and are generally enjoying their California lives. She invites all to come visit anytime and she will show you a great CC in LA time! Cris Revaz is senior counsel for Creative Associates International, and was named one of this year's top in-house attorneys in the Washington, D.C., region for his significant contributions to the international development organization. He also found time in September to meet up in Brighton with See photo below with names in order.



CAMELS CARE

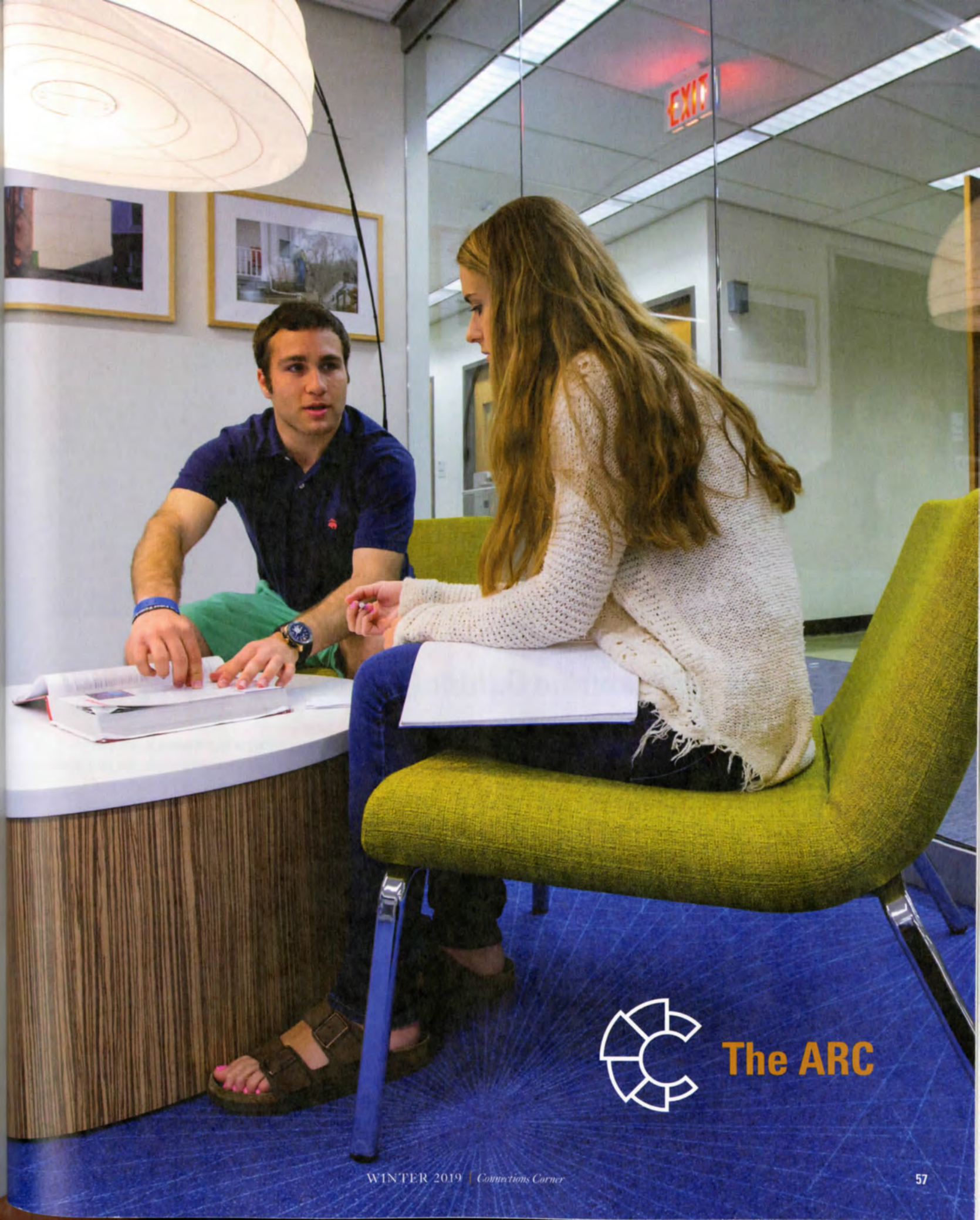
Day of Service | March 23

Do you volunteer or work with a great nonprofit organization that you want to recognize? Join Camels around the world for Camels Care, a global day of service.

Contact us by February 28 and we'll help you organize an event in your area. It's a great way to get the word out about how to make a difference and fulfill Connecticut College's mission of putting "the liberal arts into action as citizens in a global society."

Contact Joey Avena, assistant director of alumni engagement at javena@conncoll.edu

84 *Bob Kiley ('84, P '11)* was recently ordained as a permanent deacon in the Roman Catholic Church for the Archdiocese of Hartford. He will serve as a deacon at his home parish of St. Peter Claver in West Hartford, CT. Bob is an attorney and principal at the Hartford law firm Danaher Lagnese and defends health care providers in civil litigation. He and his wife, Michelle (Poulin) Kiley ('84, P '11), are celebrating their 31st wedding anniversary this year. They have four children (Meghan '11, Bridget, Caitrin and Declan), a son-in-law (Blake) and two grandsons (Cason and Conan Cleckler).



The ARC



The Academic Resource Center (ARC) is developing new

Developing professional skills that are transferable to a student's future career is one of the elements that makes Conn's Academic Resource Center unique among Conn's peers, according to Noel Garrett, who serves as director of the ARC and is dean of academic support.

In addition to serving as a resource center, the ARC spearheads many career-development initiatives, which provide a wide range of support services along with professional training for the entire campus.

"We're constantly adapting to enhance our programs in ways that reflect not only the needs of our students while they're on campus, but also the shifting economic and professional landscape they'll encounter once they graduate," says Garrett.

The initiatives that Garrett and his team have developed at the ARC include Fast Forward, an intensive, weeklong career-readiness program, as well as workshops and seminars in budgeting, finance, time management, presentation, and other topics that help students prepare for the transition to life

beyond college. The work begins in a student's first year at Conn, integrating professional development into the four-year arc of Connections.

Garrett says he's especially proud of how well the ARC works with the College's career development programs and the ambitious vision for Connections.

"The ARC and Connections work in concert to give students a competitive advantage by allowing them to ignite their curiosity and build confidence," Garrett says.

Through this synergy, the ARC offers more than just academic support. Working with faculty across every department, the center helps students translate the elements of their liberal arts education—critical and analytical thinking, interdisciplinary study, creative and collaborative problem solving, and public speaking—into the skills necessary for success in the professional world.

The ARC has by now touched every student on campus in some capacity. That interaction starts with the First-Year Seminar and continues through Pathways and majors to senior seminars and capstone experiences.



initiatives to help students hone their career-related skills

Darby Mack '21 is one example of a student who has achieved strong results working with Garrett and his team.

"My relationship with the ARC began when I realized I had to deliver a presentation to my anthropology class," Mack says. The prospect of giving a talk on a complex topic in front of a large audience was daunting to the first-year student.

Understanding that the communication skills necessary to deliver a good class presentation are the same professional skills graduates need to acquire for career success, Garrett worked with Mack's entire anthropology class so students had some initial guidance about managing a presentation.

"The ARC broke down the assignment into manageable parts. And after doing a variety of exercises, I became comfortable with the process," Mack says.

Assistant Professor of Anthropology Joyce Bennett marveled at the student's transformation.

"I was floored by her presentation," said the professor, who now regularly incorporates the center into all aspects of her teaching and advising. 🌐



Connections Corner

updates you on the happenings around Connections, from news

features and podcasts about how Conn is redefining the liberal arts to our meaningful pathways to the animating questions students ask themselves as they orchestrate their own education.

Learn more at: www.conncoll.edu/connections



J. May Hall '87 in Zanzibar

87 Correspondent: Jenifer Kahn Bakkala, 51 Wesson Terrace, Northborough, MA 01532, JKBblue@gmail.com, and Jill Perlman Pienkos, 103 Barn Hill Lane, Newington, CT 06111, jrperlman@snet.net J. May Hall (known during our CC years as Janet), graduated from nursing school in December of 2017, got her license in January of 2018 and went on her first medical mission in Zanzibar, Tanzania, in February. She is planning to return again to do more good work in 2019. Janet writes, "Just a reminder to all: It's never too late to reinvent ourselves!"

91 Correspondent: Diane Stratton, dstratton5@cox.net Laura O'Brien Smith is still living in St. Paul, MN. She is looking forward to taking trips in her midlife-crisis camper with her husband and two boys (ages 12 and 10) before they think that is dreadful. She is particularly pleased to have accomplished her "50 by 50" goal of traveling to all 50 states this year. The final state was Kansas, where she and her husband ate good BBQ and danced briefly in the grass. She still sings whenever she can, and she is tickled that her son is now using her oboe—the same one that flew



Jen Kimiatek Hunnewell, Marty Davis, Eva Cahalan Shea, Sarah Casey Forbes and Lynn Elliott (all Class of 1991) went to Burlington, VT for their annual mini reunion.

off the top of the cab at Bradley International long ago. Jen Kimiatek Hunnewell, Marty Davis, Eva Cahalan Shea, Sarah Casey Forbes and Lynn Elliott went to Burlington, VT, for their annual mini reunion. While in Vermont they tested their mind and body with a group yoga class and a trip to an escape room. They may not have made it out! Fabio Ferrari writes, "So most of us are turning 50 soon, right? I would love to hear all your successful coping strategies. I am separated now but still living in Lugano, Switzerland, with my two kids, who I embarrass regularly via Facebook. We are a happy rainbow family, with all the usual ups and downs of any family. I do get back to New York twice a year for work and would love to get together for a drink with any of my '91 classmates. I lived in Knowlton, so many of you may have no idea who

I am, but a drink is just a drink so contact me anyway! I teach at a small Swiss-American University. I majored in philosophy at CC and offer several classes in cultural studies that were inspired by some of our great CC faculty. Who remembers the Semiotics of Russian Film class with « Despo »? We were encouraged to team design and produce short video-making projects way far back in the day—that left an unforgettable mark on the way I myself teach theory and cinema." Laura Williams Freed writes, "Alexandra Ladd and I recently celebrated turning 50!!!! Super fun celebrating together in Santa Fe and Albuquerque! Happy to say we both made it to the other side safely! Here's to the rest of our classmates jumping that hurdle!!! We'll raise a glass at next reunion!" Scott Murphy writes, "I am in my second term as a selectman in Madison, CT. My daughter Abby is a freshman at Conn, living in the newly renovated Morrison dorm—it has air-conditioning!!! I am also rocking in a local band." Anton Malko has been raising two sons, currently in fourth and sixth grades, with fellow alum Hilary Magowan '94, in San Francisco, where they have lived since 2005. He has been grateful to serve the college as an alumni interviewer in the Bay Area, meeting some great prospective future Camels in the process.

94 Chuck Stackhouse reports that his family, which includes his wife, Allison, and sons Gavin (5) and Charlie (2), is enjoying the beginning of year two in the New Jersey suburbs (Maplewood). He is still working at Wafra Capital Partners in Manhattan as a Gulf-based asset manager. He still keeps in touch with a ton of folks, notably Dan Levine, Dana Rousmaniere, Jon Finnimore and Chris McDaniel, all of whom he spent a long weekend golfing with this past summer; unfortunately, Andrew Bogle missed the weekend. Simeon Tsalicoglou writes: "I'm living in Athens, Greece. Twin daughters and work keep me happy and busy. Happy to organize a reunion in Greece for any European-based CC alumni, or simply to catch up with anyone visiting Greece. I have my intentions set to make it to our class reunion in 2019. I met up with Francesca Albert this June, which was great. After a 10-year hiatus, Jennifer Jablons Marlborough is back to competing in race-walking. She did the New York City Marathon in November (an item on her bucket list), and she is looking forward to a spring marathon! Kevin Head recently upgraded to captain at Southwest Airlines, based in Denver, CO. He is still living in Castle Rock, CO, with his wife, Nancy, and two children. Kevin and Nancy just celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. Bill Fergusson and wife, Alicia Dieni Fergusson '90, are so proud to see daughter Emma Fergusson '21 thriving as a sophomore at Connecticut College. Their son Quinn is a high school junior and looking at Conn as a possible college to attend when he graduates in 2020. Bill recently left The Williams School after 23 years working there, and is now the director of external affairs at Mystic Museum of Art. He welcomes any Camel alums who want to visit MMoA and see great art at a museum located

"On the soccer team, we all respect each other and look out for one another. The Conn community taught us that from day one. You can't put a price tag on the experience I've had here."

—Uzii Dieng '18, Men's Soccer

ONE TEAM.
THE POWER OF MANY.

For more information, visit www.conncoll.edu/CamelAthleticsNetwork

right along the banks of the Mystic River. Daniela (DeFilippo) Garra is back in school alongside her students as she works toward the completion of a post-graduate degree in archaeology and the ancient world through the University of Leicester. She continues to teach seventh-grade social studies and spend summers at Cape Cod Sea Camps. She was thrilled to hear Hannah Roberts McKinnon speak in August at a literary luncheon, where Hannah was a featured author. Jen (Lapan) Mann and her family still live just outside of Annapolis. She has been an active volunteer at the Ronald McDonald House in Baltimore for about 10 years. Jen recently repeated as co-chair of the annual "HamburGala" fundraiser, which helped underwrite the construction of a brand-new \$32 million house that is opening in 2019. Our condolences go out to the family of Amy Moore Paterson. Amy graduated cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, with honors in English. She was also awarded the Sarah Ensign Cady Memorial prize for reading English literature aloud in a clear, meaningful way. Amy's obituary states, "In the summer of 2006, Amy was first diagnosed with breast cancer. The following year she attended more than 144 medical appointments, all while raising a toddler. Because of that experience, she and a friend co-founded My Little Waiting Room, a nonprofit that provides free drop-in child care to families at Providence St. Vincent and Providence Portland hospitals. To date, those two locations have supported nearly 50,000 child visits. Through her dedication, Amy was honored nationally and locally through recognition from L'Oréal's Women of Worth, the 1000 Points of Light Tribute award, Avon's Hello Tomorrow Fund, Kids II Pink Power Mom and Portland Monthly Magazine's Light a Fire award." Some alumni in the Los Angeles area are planning on gathering together in January to toast Amy's life.

01 After eight years building KEC Ventures from scratch, Brian Laung Aoaeh has teamed up with Lisa Morales-Hellebo (CMU '95) to build a new venture capital firm from the ground up. REFASHIOND Ventures will invest in early-stage startups creating the innovations that make global supply chains more efficient. Brian and Lisa are also co-founders of The Worldwide Supply Chain Federation, a global community of supply chain meetups with



Brian Laung Aoaeh '01

active chapters in New York City and Bangalore. The New York Supply Chain Meetup celebrated its one-year anniversary in November 2018. For more background, see #ProofPoints: An Ending + A Beginning.

03 Tim Stevens has become the film critic for ComicsVerse.com, fulfilling a lifelong goal to criticize other people's art as harshly as possible. Jonathan Healey, assistant director of the ethics lab at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University, invited social entrepreneur and CEO of GRID Impact, Alexandra Fiorillo, to deliver a talk on behavioral design and social impact in Washington, D.C., in September. She spoke about her work designing programs to help delay first pregnancy of recently married adolescent girls (child brides) in Bangladesh and Niger and ran a short workshop to teach behavioral design to students and faculty. Among the participants was Holly Wise '76, who is a professor at Georgetown University and leads the GHD/SFS Global Social Enterprise and Development Fellows Program with the McDonough School of Business. The three camels had a blast talking about social entrepreneurship, international development and Conn!

10 Correspondent: Grace Astrove, gca1223@gmail.com Andrew Irwin was married to Jessie Reuteler on Sept. 1, 2018. Classmates Sarah Nugent and Erin (Brady) Wiggins were in the wedding party. Andrew has worked as a salesforce developer at a Chicago-based consulting firm for the past two years. He and his wife recently bought a two-unit apartment building in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood, where they enjoy hosting dinner parties or catching up on the latest season of GBBO. After several years



John Healey '03, Holly Wise '76 and Alexandra Fiorillo '03

as a marine mammal trainer at the Mystic Aquarium and the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program, followed by a two-year solo trip around the world, Emily Hanks is now pursuing a career change to speech and language pathology. She is currently working on getting her M.Sc. in speech and language therapy from University College London. Laura Frawley and her husband, Brian Knowles, welcomed their son, William Harold Knowles, on July 6, 2017. In June 2018, Laura graduated from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with her Ph.D. in biology. Laura is now the lecturer and course coordinator at MIT in brain and cognitive sciences.

13 Correspondent: Grace Astrove, 336 East 86th Street, Apt 6G, New York, NY 10028, gca1223@gmail.com Jeffrey Beling married Ali Grzywna on Aug. 4, 2018. The wedding took place at Wellesley College. Camels in attendance included Douglas Wright '12, Dan Post '12, Colin Gallant '12, Amy Gallant '12, Hoitt McAllister '12, Matthew Gitkind, Matthew Boudreau, Andrew Duarte, Tristan Cole, Pat Myers, Blake Reilly '14 and Billy Martinsky.

14 Brett Duboff recently received his master's degree in graphic design from Suffolk University.

15 Vicky Wade and Kevin Kelly '14 were married on Sept. 1, 2018. Many, many camels were in attendance!



To celebrate 15 years of friendship after meeting as new freshman in 2003, Vanita Srikanth, Jennifer Dillon, Natalie Paris and Adam Deligianis (all 2007) gathered with their children for a Friendiversary Weekend in Massachusetts



Ryan Joyce '10 and Pamela (Charpie) Joyce '11 welcomed their second child, Bobby James Joyce to the family on June 14.

In Memoriam



Bob MacDonnell

Deborah Purvis MacDonnell, director of public relations in the Office of Communications, passed away Sunday, Nov. 4.

Deb was a talented writer, a wonderful collaborator and a trusted friend to many at the College and in the community. A native of Madison, Connecticut, and a longtime resident of Niantic, she joined Connecticut College in 2006 as a senior writer and was soon promoted to director of public relations. In that role, Deb oversaw media relations, emergency communications, legislative affairs, internal communications and major institutional events, while also serving as the main liaison between the College and the greater southeastern Connecticut community.

Deb had a tremendous impact on the Connecticut College campus. She worked closely with colleagues across all divisions, playing a role in every major initiative of the past 12 years. Her many accomplishments include implementing the College's first emergency alert system; creating the Founders Day celebration in advance of the College's Centennial, an event so popular that it continues to this day; raising the national profile of the Green Dot bystander intervention program; redesigning key campus events, such as Convocation and Commencement; and helping to establish the College's partnership with One Book One Region of Eastern Connecticut. This last initiative has touched the lives of our students and thousands of people in the community by bringing great

writers like Mohsin Hamid, Yaa Gyasi and Bryan Stevenson to the College to discuss important issues of our time.

Deb was a mentor to many campus employees, as well as to students who worked in the Office of Communications. She always took the time to answer questions, offer advice or pitch in to help when a deadline loomed. And she had a wonderful sense of humor that put people at ease.

Her work with the local community was done not only to represent the College in important community discussions but also out of her own need to give back. She served on the Rotary Club of New London in various capacities over the past five years, and held the position of vice president before being named president-elect in June 2018. The Rotary honored her with the Paul Harris Fellowship this past summer. She also served on the board of directors of the Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition, volunteered regularly at the New London Community Meal Center, and taught Sunday school.

Deb is survived by her beloved husband of 25 years, Bob MacDonnell; her children, Madeline and Kyle; her father Richard Purvis; and an extensive group of family and friends, including many at Connecticut College.

Memorial donations in honor of Deb may be made to the Rotary Club of New London or the Center for Hospice Care Southeast Connecticut.

1930's

Elizabeth Fuetsch '37, died October 18, 2018

1940's

Mary McWilliams '40, died August 28, 2018

Priscilla Wescott-Huber '41, died November 6, 2018

Charlotte M. Chamberlain '42, died September 16, 2018

Alice Brennan '44, died 2015

Edith Montgomery Kerrigan '44, died October 3, 2018

Lucile Darcy '45, died September 3, 2018

Betty May Davis '45, died January 19, 2018

Joyce Moore '46, died October 7, 2018

Joan Joseloff Kohn '47, died October 4, 2018

Doris Wagner '47, died August 22, 2018

Jean F. Coblentz '48, died August 15, 2018

Jean Siefke '49, died September 4, 2018

Lois M. Victory '49, died November 23rd, 2018

1950's

Beverley Benenson Gasner '51, died October 1, 2018

Paula Nelson '51, died September 26, 2018

Romaine E. Balog '52, died October 30, 2018

Norma Neri Goralski '52, died October 17, 2018

Kathleen Nelles McClure '52, died October 26, 2018

Elizabeth Drachman '53, died September 27, 2018

Nena Elizabeth Cunningham Dahling '54,

died November 13, 2018

Carol Ertman '54, died November 30, 2018

Dorothy Ann Fitch '55, died October 27, 2018

Beverly J. Watts '56, died October 21, 2018

Dorothea S. Badenhausen '57, died September 23, 2018

Lynne Gorman '57, died October 25, 2018

Constance Marsh '57, died September 7, 2018

Holly K. White '59, died November 10, 2018

1960's

Joan Karslake Beauchamp '61, died November 25, 2018

Patricia O'Keefe '61

Margaret Souers '63, died June 15, 2018

Anne Woldman '64, died August 13, 2018

Carol A. Kim '65, died November 26, 2018

Anne Wood Birgbauer '66, died October 25, 2018

Micheline Blum '67, died November 22, 2018

Ellen S. Kent '69, died October 10, 2018

Cynthia A. Osborne '69, died April 2018

Jane Reisman '69, died September 30, 2018

1970's

Julie Ann Boczar Story '70, died August 23, 2018

Hope Whitehead '72, died October 6, 2018

Cynthia Griffith '73, died October 28, 2018

Lisa Hannigan '79, died February 4, 2017

1980's

Joanne "Jody" Baur Smith '81, died November 20, 2018

Mark Robidoux '84, died October 14, 2018

Emily Roberts '85, died September 25, 2018

Barry M. Bloom P '85, died August 25, 2018

1990's

RAmy Moore Paterson '93, died November 6, 2018

Nicole Lyn Gordon '97, died October 1, 2018

2000's

Adam C. Scala '06, died September 11, 2018



Linda Lear Center for Special Collections and Archives

Patricia McGowan Wald '48, who was the first woman to serve as chief judge of the federal appeals court in Washington, D.C., and who later served on the International Criminal Tribunal in The Hague, died Jan. 12 at the age of 90. A courageous trailblazer and relentless champion of social justice, Wald was an inspiration to women around the world. Her extraordinary career spanned decades and presidential administrations, culminating in 2013 when President Barack Obama awarded her the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom. She was featured on the cover of the Fall 2018 issue of this magazine, anchoring our "Profiles in Courage" series. Here, she is pictured in her judicial robe circa 1981. Wald is survived by her children, Johanna, Frederica, Sarah, Douglas, and Thomas; 10 grandchildren; and many friends and fellow alumni throughout the Connecticut College community who had the privilege to know her. To read Wald's full obituary, visit ccmagazine.conncoll.edu.

REUNION

MAY 31 - JUNE 2, 2019



Registration will open mid-March. Watch your email or go to reunion.conncoll.edu for more information. Looking forward to seeing you back on campus!

Weekend highlights include:

FRIDAY, MAY 31

- Sykes Luncheon
- Faculty and Alumni Presentations
- New England Cookout
- Food Truck Festival
- All Campus Welcome party

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

- Alumni Parade
- Convocation and Alumni Awards
- All Class Picnic and Kids Carnival
- Class Receptions and Dinners

SUNDAY, JUNE 2

- Farewell Breakfast

Connecticut College
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New London, CT 06320-4196

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As director of the High Museum in Atlanta, GA, Randall Suffolk '90 is transforming one of America's great art institutions, and ensuring it reflects the diversity of the local community. Look for a feature story on Suffolk in the Summer issue of CC Mag.